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SPACE ARMS GROUP HOLDS SESSION IN GENEVA

LD131136 Moscow TASS in English 1107 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Geneva, May 13 TASS -- The group on space arms has met for a session here today within the framework of the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space armaments.

ARBATOV COMMENTS ON ARMS TALKS, U.S. RELATIONS

LD102127 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 2020 GMT 8 May 86

[Interview with Georgiy Arbatov, director of the United States of America and Canada Institute, by correspondent Jerzy Wajszczuk on 8 May; Arbatov and Wajszczuk in Russian fading into superimposed Polish translation; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Wajszczuk] Almost exactly a year ago we talked about the time factor in international relations, including Soviet-U.S. relations. Why, in your opinion, is the disarmament dialogue developing so slowly at the present time?

[Arbatov] Well, for relations to develop at all, and especially to develop quickly, both sides have to want it and, above all, they have to want disarmament. If that were so, this dialogue would develop much more quickly and move ahead altogether. What we have seen over the last year has in no way, I believe, dispersed the doubts that we have had, and continue to have, regarding the U.S. Administration's intentions toward disarmament negotiations. What are they? Is it a means to conceal their own intentions and shut up the opposition? A means to pacify those who are discontent and, in essence, a continuation of the arms race? I believe that the U.S. Administration is constantly hampering this dialogue, because, as Mikhail Gorbachev continually repeats, summit meetings are only useful if... [Arbatov changes thought] Which does not mean that he is setting down conditions, but it is sensible and arises from the norms of international relations, and at the same time conforming with the undertaking the two leaders made in Geneva. This kind of meeting serves to normalize the international situation and Soviet-U.S. relations, to halt the arms race, and to reduce the risk of a threat of nuclear war. And the year, or even the 6 months that have passed since Geneva have shown a lot in this sphere; specifically that the Soviet Union indeed attempts to give substance to what it says, to perceive in a new way many of the problems the world is facing, and to find a new approach to the security problem. Even now security concepts already have been worked out to meet the Americans half-way; to comprehend their problems and meet them half-way wherever possible in order to reach agreement. Examples of this are our statement of 15 January and many other proposals aimed precisely at that. But we have not noticed one, literally not one such positive move from the U.S. side.

[Wajszczuk] It seems to me that it was psychologically easier to speak of future events last year. Everything was ahead of us: Geneva, other negotiations. So hopes were ahead of us, while I believe that now, in spite of various achievements in the field and even Geneva, the world seemingly has become more complicated.

[Arbatov] Well, you know. That hope lives within us as long as we live. Thus I would not put it that way. Besides that, we have also witnessed many positive phenomena recently. All in all, the political process was given new momentum over the past year. A serious discussion was started around problems almost forgotten. And here, I believe, Soviet policy and Soviet initiatives have played an important role. Many issues were put in the appropriate light and it resulted from the political process. It is more difficult to conceal one's intentions. For example, let us take nuclear tests.

It alwys was said that the Russians were conducting more of those; however, they cannot say that any more. Much was said about arms control, and now that, too, is out. Therefore, it is becoming obvious to everyone that the U.S. Administration wants to continue the arms race. What else? This position is not supported by everyone as it leads to specific problems.

Much also was said about the SS-20 missiles, about Soviet superiority. Now we have presented proposals for their elimination similar to the U.S. one but the Americans immediately retreat. We are proposing almost exactly what they were proposing recently, while they at once draw back from it. This is also instructive for people.

We conduct policies stretching ahead a year or 6 months, or even further ahead because, after all, history did not begin with Reagan and it will not end with him. And the United States is not the only country in the world.

I also believe that the struggle presently developing between our states and the two systems, between the socialist community and NATO, also has another plane. Who has a more thorough, more realistic program that better answers mankind's needs? Is it the Soviet Union and its allies or the United States and its allies? The public's approach to many issues these days will depend on what they are being offered. After all, we and the United States account for merely 10 percent of the world population, leaving another 90 percent.

[Wajszczuk] How do you view what is described as the spirit of Geneva?

[Arbatov] In my opinion the spirit of Geneva is the undertaking made in Geneva, the undertaking to struggle for a breakthrough in international relations, in the situation as a whole, in turning away from the cold war and in changing over to the track of normal relations -- what we call detente. We will not insist on this term, as it has by now almost been turned into a vulgar concept in the United States. It is the concept of peaceful coexistence, improved relations. It can be described in a variety of ways, but the essence of the matter amounts to halting the totally unlimited arms race and renouncing every thing connected with the cold war. That is how I understand Geneva and therein lay its value. The first step in that direction was made there; not from the point of view of changing the very substance of relations but from the point of view of establishing premises for that. Such possibilities were created and unnecessary obstacles, which had made it impossible even to meet at a negotiating table, were removed.

What is the effect of this? So far, I have been disappointed. And I am not just expressing my own point of view. Comrade Gorbachev has recently spoken of this from many platforms, and very important ones at that. And I believe that this is understood equally in Poland and back home. All we ever see is pressure. Not a single military program has been given up and more and more money is demanded for armaments. The behavior is, frankly, provocative. We proposed a moratorium, extended it -- we did that twice -- and we get, ostentatiously and provocatively, nuclear tests one after another.

On top of that, there are the events in Libya, U.S. warships sail into the Black Sea, into our territorial waters. Thus even less important events such as these clearly show the U.S. Administration's intentions, if not the President himself. I have no basis to attribute everything to him alone, although I find it difficult to imagine that things like that are not determined at the highest level.

It is now proposed to us to reduce our UN staff, contrary to the U.S. undertakings to guarantee normal working conditions for various UN missions. These demands concerning staff reductions, I believe, also apply to Poland and other socialist states.

That is how they behave and on top of that they get offended whenever the Soviet Union proposes anything openly; we at once get the offended look. Why? Because it is public diplomacy.

[Wajszczuk] How, in your opinion, do U.S. citizens perceive the Soviet Union's foreign policy?

[Arbatov] First of all, I would like to say that the Soviet Union's policies get passed over in silence there. One or two things do get through, for example the matter of our nuclear test moratorium. A little bit got through in connection with the 27th congress, but for all the Americans' pride in their free press, they have become amazingly conformist. There was the attack by Reagan and his side on ABC because it allowed our commentator to appear after Reagan's speech for 8 minutes. After that, everyone became quiet about the Soviet Union. There is very little information about the Soviet Union and it is very poor. Therefore, it is not just the man in the street, as they say, that has no idea about it. Amazing ignorance is also displayed by specialists and even many administration officials.

All the things that have been said on the Soviet Union's position regarding security, terrorism, economic security--the Americans simply don't know about them. I would go as far as saying that kind of ignorance is dangerous to live with in a nuclear era.

But the Americans do not think about that. The United States is full of complacency, self-admiration. They treat the rest of the world with contempt, and I even have the impression that they are not very eager to listen to what others say. I am, of course, thinking of the authors of the U.S. mood and not the ordinary man. The ordinary man is almost exactly the same in every state. It is precisely on him that this complacency is imposed; a complacency not fully justified at that. Presumably there will be even fewer grounds for it soon, but it is a very dangerous state of mind. A dangerous state to which the United States has been led by the present administration's course and its propaganda, which they prefer to call public relations [last two words in English]. It even replaces politics there in some cases. Thus, I would say that the picture there is not entrancing in this respect. The intellectual level there has dropped in the last few years, even at the once famous centers of learning. I personally have come back from the United States disappointed.

[Wajszczuk] Yes, but on the other hand, the so-called leading press, NEWSWEEK, TIME, and other periodicals frequently return to Soviet subjects; they often raise the issue of transformations taking place, for example, in the USSR's economic or social life.

[Arbatov] Yes, but these leading media, and especially serious articles, are not widely read. Besides that, being able to see what they write there, I have serious grievances against these leading media. They seem to have developed a fashion of sorts. Let us take, for example, TIME which you have mentioned. They cannot just write normally that something is happening in the Soviet Union, irrespective of whether it is good or bad. For example, back home Arbat Street has been opened in an old part of Moscow. Just like your New Town. It has been closed to traffic, the street has been restored and people enjoy strolling there. It is just nice there. TIME has published an article saying that it is all true but one must not forget that on one of Arbat's corners is the PLO mission and a bit farther along the National Defense Minstry [as heard]. They clearly overlooked that the Foreign Affairs Ministry is almost right in Arbat and much closer than the National Defense Ministry are the residences of the U.S. and Canadian ambassadors. But they inevitably have to say something in the aforementioned manner. It has even become a matter of good form; good in inverted commas and in the United States.

I find that disturbing. It is almost like the unconditional reflex of Pavlov's dog. Just like at the sound of the bell, it begins to salivate and produce gastric juices, so the press produces immediate associations.

Also, I have never seen a similar debauch of chauvinistic propaganda. There are all these films like "Rambo 2," "Rocky IV," and "Red Dawn." All this creates a highly dangerous state, and the press, the leading media, are irresponsibly conformist in respect to these phenomena, although articles of another type do appear there every now and then.

[Wajszczuk] You often appear on U.S. television. Do you get any feedback from it?

[Arbatov] I do. It is said that if Arbatov appears there, Americans should appear before us. They complain of inequality. But for every one of my words about the Soviet Union there are a thousand American words. But I don't complain; it is their television, after all.

[Wajszczuk] I have two more questions. First, the issue of peaceful coexistence. How is this matter now received in the United States?

[Arbatov] Well, the Americans are afraid of war, even the ruling circles. It is obvious that every nation prefers life to death and peace to war. But at the same time, the chauvinistic feelings have produced the need to keep on finding outlets for them. For the time being, the government has been managing to find all kind of wars that are not dangerous, without bloodshed and guaranteed success, like the war against Grenada, like the quick and cowardly operations against Libya, or like, with someone else's hands in Nicaragua or in Afghanistan. That is what it looks like, and, unfortunately, this is often taken in a chauvinistic manner. Propaganda is immediately unleashed as if it were some great victory. It is the same in the case of Nicaragua or Libya.

[Wajszczuk] And, my last question: The matter of Europe. It seems to me that after Mikhail Gorbachev's latest proposals in Berlin, Europe is becoming the center of international relations. What more needs to be done to move ahead?

[Arbatov] I believe that Western Europe itself should adopt an independent position. I hope it will be so, and soon. That would change much throughout the world.

[Wajszczuk] On behalf of the Polish viewers, I would like to thank you very much for meeting with us.

PRAVDA ARTICLE ON ARMS VERIFICATION ISSUE

LD131421 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 86 First Edition p 4

[Yu. Tomilin article: "Disarmament and Monitoring"]

[Text] The struggle against the nuclear danger and the arms race for the preservation and strengthening of universal peace is a key avenue in the Soviet Union's activity in the international arena. The Soviet foreign policy initiatives put forward on 15 January enjoy wide support in the world. That is why the opponents of disarmament and those who pursue a policy of confrontation and strong-arm pressure with regard to other countries are having to resort to various subterfuges in order to conceal their reluctance to accept arms limitation measures, and ultimately to prevent the adoption of such measures.

It is usually the so-called problem of monitoring [kontrol] that is used for this purpose. In essence the postwar history of examination of questions of arms limitation and disarmament involves disputes over this problem. Yet there need be no such disputes, were they not created artificially by the opponents of disarmament.

In those individual cases where situations have arisen in which the United States and other Western powers have accepted certain arms limitation measures, questions of monitoring have also been resolved. However, as soon as the international situation has deteriorated through the fault of imperialist circles and the opportunities to achieve accords with regard to arms limitation have correspondingly decreased, the so-called difficulties of monitoring have also immediately increased. Depending on the situation, the supporters of the arms race use various methods to create such difficulties.

They often try to substitute the monitoring of armaments for the monitoring of disarmament. In this respect the American peoposals known in their day as the "Baruch plan," the "open skies plan," and a number of others are highly typical. These plans, without proposing any arms limitation measures, put forward demands, basically, for total monitoring -- and not only of arms, but also of a significant proportion of peaceful activity.

Another method is this. They claim that the Soviet Union, by virtue of the very nature of its social system, can supposedly covertly violate arms limitation and disarmament agreements, and that therefore it is better not to conclude any such agreements with it. What kind of a nature is this, that does not permit monitoring? The authors of this "argument" claim, it appears, that Soviet society is "closed." It is another matter in the United States, Britain, and the other Western countries, with their "open society." They supposedly publish the relevant data and generally wear their hearts on their sleeves.

This assertion is false from start to finish. No country would reveal it secrets. What they call the Western countries' "openness" is an illusion, a myth. For instance, everyone who has studied the so-called "hearings" of U.S. congressional committees and subcommittees knows that the most important part of their materials are not published, while many "hearings" take place entirely behind closed doors. The same happens in other Western countries. Every sovereign state decides for itself what data it will publish in what circumstances, and what it will not publish. As for the Soviet Union, having once concluded an agreement it always observes it strictly and makes available those data that the terms of the agreement require.

Western, especially American, diplomacy, in order to drag out talks or prevent them from starting, also resorts to the following method: It is stated that before starting the talks it is necessary to resolve technical questions of monitoring and determine the available -- again, technical -- potential for verification [proverka] of the measure which is to be discussed. Then these technical aspects become well and truly bogged down in endless debates on individual questions of little significance.

Finally, one more method is used. It is announced that a particular arms limitation measure cannot be implemented, since it is supposedly impossible to monitor its observance. Precisely this method has been used by the United States for a long time to block, for instance, the attainment of an accord on banning all nuclear weapon tests.

Back in 1958, a conference of experts from eight countries, including the USSR and the United States, came to the conclusion that such a ban is susceptible to reliable monitoring. Despite this conclusion, official representatives of Western states at the talks started after the experts' conference began to make far-fetched demands in the monitoring sphere.

A few years passed, and a whole series of American ambassadors, successive heads of the U.S. delegation to those talks, admitted that the problem had been used artificially by the American side to prevent the attainment of agreement. The Soviet side only had to show flexibility and go half-way to meet its Western partners' proposals, and they promptly discovered "new data" and the United States went back on its own proposals. Thus J. Wadsworth, who was head of the American delegation at the talks, testified that the Soviet side conducted the talks "with the serious intention of achieving agreement," and that the United States was at fault that the agreement was not concluded.

We could also take a more recent example -- The trilateral (USSR, United States, Britain) talks on the same issue held in 1977-1980. As the talks progressed, the United States made increasingly tough demands in the monitoring sphere. After dragging out the talks in this way, the United States then simply broke them off.

The Soviet Union believed and continues to believe that the existing national technical means of verification are sufficient for monitoring that no nuclear tests are held. However, in order to eliminate the so-called difficulties in resolving this issue, it has declared its readiness to accept the strictest verification measures, including on-site inspection [inspektsiya]. The USSR agrees, in particular, with the proposal of the leaders of the six states -- Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania, and Sweden -- that they give assistance in the verification of the bilateral cessation of nuclear tests by the Soviet Union and the United States, including on-site inspections.

The United States was forced to show its hand, admitting that it is not a question of monitoring, but of the fact that it needs tests in order to improve its nuclear weapons and test [proverka] the reliability of stockpiles. But this, they say, applies to an all-embracing ban, while the United States could accept a so-called "threshold" ban, though here again monitoring difficulties get in the way.

It is worth dwelling in a little more detail on this "threshold" ban. Indeed, such a ban, that is, a ban on explosions above a specified yield threshold, is more difficult to monitor than the complete cessation of nuclear tests. Nonetheless, even this is possible. In 1974, the Soviet Union and the United States signed the Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapons Tests under which it is forbidden to carry out any underground tests of nuclear weapons with a yield of more than 150 kilotons. In 1976, this document was supplemented by the signing of the Treaty on Underground Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes, which was designed to regulate the holding of such explosions in the conditions of a "threshold" nuclear weapon test ban. For both treaties a detailed system was elaborated for the verification of their observance, including the exchange of relevant data and on-site verification with regard to peaceful nuclear explosions. The United States subsequently announced its refusal to ratify them, saying that the measures for monitoring the observance of the agreements were not adequate.

The United States put forward a proposal for Soviet specialists to come to their testing ground in Nevada to observe a test nuclear weapon explosion. American propaganda made a great fuss about this invitation. But to this day nobody in the United States can explain the point of it. Why should Soviet specialists observe an American nuclear test? In order to sanction it with their presence? It it is a question of ensuring monitoring of the observance of the 1974 and 1976 "threshold" treaties, the treaties make provision for a reliable verification system. In order to convince yourself of this it is only necessary to bring these treaties into operation. In other words, it is necessary to exchange data and fulfill the other conditions, and that includes carrying out calibration explosions, for which the 1974 treaty provides, and resorting to the on-site verification procedures for which the 1976 treaty provides.

In a similar way, Washington is artificially and deliberately creating "monitoring difficulties" in the sphere of banning chemical weapons.

For a number of years the United States opposed starting talks on a chemical weapons ban, trying to prove that it is supposedly impossible to monitor a ban on these weapons. Later, under the influence of a wide range of states and of world public opinion, the United States entered into, first, bilateral and then multilateral talks on the conclusion of a convention on the banning and destruction of chemical weapons. Although it had thereby acknowledged the possiblity of monitoring, it tried nonetheless to complicate the course of the talks by putting forward demands it knew to be unacceptable to many other countries. Thus there emerged the American proposal that state enterprises, in the main, should be subject to the toughest control -- so-called special inspections to be carried out on request. Obviously, if this proposal was accepted, the countries where the state sector of the economy prevails, first and foremost the socialist countries, would be in a completely unequal position compared with the states where the private capital sector prevails, first and foremost the United States. Having encountered sharp criticism of this absurd proposal, the United States was forced to withdraw it in April of this year.

The Soviet Union advoates the quickest banning and destruction of chemical weapons under the strictest monitoring, including international on-site verification. New confirmation of the USSR's constructive stance is provided by the proposals announced by M.S. Gorbachev in his speech at the 11th SED Congress on 16 April.

Putting forward, in the same speech, a new initiative on a considerable reduction of conventional arms and armed forces in Europe, the Soviet leader stressed the need for reliable monitoring at all stages of this process. It could be a question both of national technical means and of international forms of verification, including on-site inspection where necessary.

The Soviet Union proposed a similar approach with regard to the monitoring of the program it put forward on 15 January for the total elimination of nuclear weapons throughout the world by the year 2000. The monitoring of the arms being destroyed and limited would be carried out both by national means and through on-site inspections. The USSR is prepared to reach agreement on any other additional monitoring measures.

Thus in all areas of arms limitation the Soviet Union advocates effective monitoring that would ensure complete confidence in the observance of accords. The Soviet Union's readiness to accept the strictest international forms of verfication of the observance of agreed disarmament measures robs the disarmament opponents of the means of disguising their negative approach.

The essence of the Soviet position is this: Disarmament without monitoring is impossible, but monitoring without disarmament is pointless. This position is as precise as it is fair and honest.

Soviet proposals on arms limitation and disarmament always link monitoring in the closest possible way with the process of limiting and eliminating arms, and never regard it as some kind of self-sufficient measure. Therefore, monitoring must be an integral part of disarmament agreements, playing the part of a means of promoting the fulfillment of the agreement.

There is no weapon the Soviet Union would not be prepared to limit or ban on a mutual basis with effective monitoring. This is solemnly declared in the CPSU Program, the new edition of which was adopted by the 27th CPSU Congress.

REAGAN STATEMENT ON GENEVA RESUMPTION HIT

PM131236 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 May 86 First Edition p 5

[Vitaliy Gan dispatch under the rubric "Commentator's Column": "Washington and Geneva"]

[Text] Washington -- The Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space arms have resumed in Geneva. The people of the world rightly expect from their participants specific accords capable of arresting the slide toward the nuclear abyss, checking the dangerous buildup of militarist preparations, and preventing them from spreading to space,

The USSR's stance at the Geneva talks is well known. Our country has put forward a whole range of concrete proposals aimed at delivering mankind from the nuclear threat within this century and sharply reducing other types of arms. Regrettably, the actions of the United States so far inspire no particular hope that rapid progress will be achieved in this vitally important area. Washington's steps such as its refusal to joint the Soviet moratorium on nuclear tests, its efforts to continue its "star wars" preparations at any price, the program for the modernization of NATO's chemical arsenals, and other steps in the same direction testify to the U.S. intention to continue to pursue the mirage of military superiority.

The same applies to the U.S. President's statement released on the eve of the resumption of the Geneva talks. It would be futile to look for constructive new proposals and ideas in this statement. There is nothing in this statement to indicate Washington's readiness to abandon its old obstructionist stance and to back up its declarations of "commitment" to the cause of curbing the arms race with practical steps.

Instead, the statement abounds in the old demagogical expatiations with which the United States is trying to cover up its unwillingness to come to an agreement with the USSR based on the principle of equality and identical security. Instead of submitting concrete initiatives in the field of disarmament, Washington is trying to prove that the absence of progress at the talks is due to...the Soviet position. Attempts are being made to accuse our country of noncompliance with the commitments enshrined in the joint Soviet-American statement on the results of the Geneva summit of November 1985.

The discrepancy, to put it mildly, between these claims and the reality is obvious. After all, it was the Soviet Union that put forward in mid-January the comprehensive phased program for delivering mankind from nuclear arms. Unable to counter the Soviet initiative with anything sufficiently constructive or radical, Washington came up with nothing better than rejecting it under far-fetched and clumsy pretexts. The President's statement once again indicates that the disarmament program put forward by the USSR is essentially unacceptable to the United States.

The dialogue in Geneva on the main problem of our time, the problem of diminishing the threat of war to the future of mankind, demands that its participants display truly historic responsibility. Regrettably, this is totally lacking in the President's statement.

OVCHINNIKOV ON ASIAN DISARMAMENT, PRC RELATIONS

PM130930 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 86 First Edition p 6

[Political Observer Vsevolod Ochinnikov article: "Nuclear Disarmament and Security in Asia"]

[Text] The Soviet Union, having formulated the fundamental principles of an all-embracing system of international security at the 27th CPSU Congress and having put forward a program for the stage-by-stage liquidation of nuclear weapons by the end of this century, fully takes into account the interests of Asian and Pacific countries in these matters. Being a state whose longest border lies in Asia, the USSR strives to ensure that Asia and the Pacific are neither a source of tension nor an arena of military confrontation. The recently published statement by the Soviet Government proposes that a broad exchange of opinions begins between all interested countries in this part of the world on questions of organizing equal, mutually advantageous, and stable trade, economic, technological, scientific, and cultural cooperation, and also identifies possible spheres for such cooperation.

The Soviet Government believes that, despite differences in political systems, ideologies, and world philosophies, the people in Asia and the Pacific are linked by common vital interests, and are thus interested in the elaboration of a joint comprehensive approach toward regional problems. The Soviet Union proposes that bilateral and multilateral consultations be used to achieve settlement of disputed questions, to consolidate mutual confidence, and to gradually create prerequisites for holding an all-Asian forum so as to embark jointly on the quest for constructive solutions. A separate conference of Pacific countries could possibly be held to examine questions of security, including economic security.

The Soviet program for delivering mankind from the threat of a nuclear catastrophe is in profound harmony with the moods of people in Asia, the largest and most populous part of the world. It was, indeed, in Asia that the first American atom bombs exploded, taking many human lives and turning the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to ashes.

It was Asia that was the object of the first plans for the use of American nuclear weapons in "regional conflicts." Documents that have been subsequently declassified testify that the Pentagon was seriously preparing for this in order to change the course of the Korean war in 1953; to help the French colonialist troops in Vietnam, encircled in Dien Bien Phu in 1954; and to exert pressure on Beijing in 1959, when the situation in the Formosa Strait [Tayvanskiy Proliv] became exacerbated.

It was in Asia and the Pacific that the sinister consequences of the nuclear arms race were first felt. Japanese fishermen suffered from the radioactive dust of an American hydrogen bomb exploded at Bikini Atoll.

It must be added that it is in Asia and the Pacific that states were unwilling to accede to the Moscow Treaty Banning Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space, and Under Water are continuing to conduct nuclear explosions.

U.S. imperialist circles have recently stepped up their attempts to transform Asia and the Pacific into yet another arena of military-political confrontation with the USSR, the other socialist states, and national liberation forces.

The objective of American strategists is to turn East Asia and the Pacific and Indian Oceans which wash its coasts into a region for the deployment of forward-based nuclear means, like Western Europe and its contiguous Atlantic Ocean. This goes to explain the feverish buildup of U.S. nuclear weapons and the creation of new bases for the "Rapid Deployment Forces" in a region where the second largest group of U.S. Armed Forces abroad is already stationed.

Encouraging militarist trends in Japan, U.S. imperialism is striving to transform this nation into a key link of an anti-Soviet and antisocialist "Eastern front." It is in pursuit of this objective that they want to close the triangle of military ties between Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul, and also to open the way for the creation of a "Pacific Community" in which it is also planned to involve the ASEAN states in addition to military bloc allies. All this indicates that the Soviet proposals to create an all-embracing system of international security and the idea of a stage-by-stage liquidation of nuclear weapons are particularly topical for Asia. A total ban on nuclear tests, both on the mainland and in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, would primarily correspond with the vital interests of Asian peoples.

The implementation of the Soviet program for nuclear disarmament would fundamentally improve the situation in Asia and the Pacific. Its stage-by-stage implementation could provide the background for ensuring the security interests of states not possessing nuclear weapons. They would officially proclaim their commitment to the three non-nuclear principles: not to possess, produce, or introduce such weapons on their territory. Nuclear powers would pledge under international law not to use nuclear weapons against countries and regions in that part of world maintaining a nuclear-free status.

If agreement were reached on the total liquidation of nuclear weapons by the end of this century, it would be immeasurably easier to reach accord on other measures to consolidate security in this part of the world, which accounts for one-third of the planet's land mass and over two-thirds of its population -- for example, to agree on freezing the level of military activeness in Asia and the Pacific. It is well known that the U.S. desire to create a nuclear threat against the Soviet Union from the south was an important factor in the fact that the United States unilaterally broke off the Soviet-U.S. talks on the limitation and termination of naval activity in the Indian Ocean and stepped up its militarization.

If a nuclear-free world were to become a universal lodestar, there would no longer be any need to knock together new military blocs in the region or expand existing ones. Favorable prerequisites would be created for the liquidation of foreign military bases on the territory of Asian states and in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

In order to ensure that the system of Asian security is truly reliable, its fundamental principles must include the renunciation of foreign backing for antigovernment and terrorist armed groups. This would open the way for political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and Cambodia, thus eliminating two dangerous seats of tension on the continent.

The Soviet Union's call for a joint quest for ways to consolidate security in Asia and the Pacific, utilizing in this process, in particular, the experience of the all-European Conference, does not in any way imply a mechanical transplant of the Helsinki scheme onto Asian ground. Many elements of the European experience in detente, however, can be applied in Asia. They include respect for sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs, nonuse of force, peaceful settlement of disputes, the right of people to determine their own fate, and the development of equal and mutually advantageous cooperation.

In the USSR's opinion, the concept of Asian security could include the 5 principles of peaceful coexistence ("pancha shila") elaborated in the past by the states of the continent, the 10 Bandung Principles, and the several proposals by Asia's nonaligned and socialist countries. Perhaps the most long-standing among them is the initiative of India and other contiguous states to turn the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. If the UN declaration on this question were to be successfully implemented, the cause of consolidating Asian security would be immediately and substantially advanced. The Soviet Union is an active champion of this, aiming at the convening of the appropriate international conference.

The socialist countries have put forward a number of constructive initiatives on various aspects of Asian security in recent times. In addition to the program for nuclear disarmament, the USSR proposed a discussion on the question of confidence-building measures in the Far East (along lines similar to the ones already being implemented in Europe on the basis of the Helsinki accords). The Mongolian People's Republic proposed the conclusion of a convention on mutual nonaggression and nonuse of force between Asian and Pacific countries. Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia consistently advocate the transformation of Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, and cooperation, and also the establishment of good-neighborly relations with the ASEAN states. A number of constructive initiatives aimed at speeding up the peaceful and democratic unification of Korea and the easing of military confrontation in the Korean peninsula have been put forward by the DPRK Government.

The achievement of lasting security in Asia and the Pacific is unthinkable without the great Chinese people's participation in the process. It is gratifying that the two nuclear powers situated in Asia -- the USSR and the PRC -- have pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and also that the PRC is against the militarization of space. It can be said with satisfaction that there has been a certain improvement in Soviet-Chinese relations. Differences in approach still remain, in particular regarding a number of international problems. There is also something else, though -- an opportunity in many cases to work together and to develop cooperation on an equal and principled basis, not to the detriment of third countries. The opportunities for cooperation between the USSR and China are enormous. The utilization of these reserves would definitely be to the advantage of Asian security.

There are other favorable factors for the attainment of this goal. They include the burgeoning of antiwar and antinuclear sentiments, evidenced in particular by the decision made by the relevant states to proclaim the South Pacific a nuclear-free zone. The international prestige and positive role of the Nonaligned Movement are growing, the struggle to restructure international economic relations on a fair and equal basis is spreading.

The elaboration of the concept of Asian security is a long-term task that has to be solved stage-by-stage, moving on from simple to complex aspects. "The CPSU," the new edition of its Program says, "advocates the pooling of efforts by all interested states for the purpose of ensuring security in Asia, for a joint quest by them for a constructive solution to this problem." And Asia's transformation into a continent of good-neighborliness and cooperation would, in its turn, augment the pan-human potential of peace, common sense, and goodwill which was spoken of at the 27th CPSU Congress.

PENTAGON 'PRESSING' CONGRESS ON AMRAAM MISSILES

LD130604 Moscow TASS in English 0600 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Washington May 13 TASS -- The Pentagon is now pressing Congress to give the go-ahead to the start of the mass production of the sophisticated "AMRAAM" air-to-air medium range missile in fiscal 1987.

The Pentagon has requested almost 800 million dollars to be allocated in its draft budget to this end. The missile, work to develop which was begun back in 1981, is designated primarily for the U.S. Airforce. The Airforce plans to purchase 17,000 missiles of this type. The U.S. Navy also showed interest in the new missile. It announced its intention to purchase 7,000 missiles.

UK GOVERNMENT 'WHITE PAPER' ON DEFENSE SCORED

LD131004 Moscow TASS in English 0935 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] London May 13 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Pakhomov reports:

The British Conservative government, following in the wake of Washington's aggressive policy, continues to increase military expenditures and step up militarist preparations. A record-high sum -- almost 18,500 million pounds sterling -- is to be allocated for the British military establishment in the 1986-1987 financial year. This is stated in the government's "white paper" on defense expenditures. The compilers of the document which was issued here today stated that by the level of military expenditures Britain "is ahead of" all the other NATO partners, except the United States. Appropriations for the purposes have grown by 3,000 million pounds sterling as compared with the 1978-79 financial year when the Conservatives took office.

The "white paper" discourses a good deal about an "urgent necessity" to improve East-West relations and about a "firm commitment" of NATO countries, including Britain, to the cause of achieving progress at the arms control talks. However, behind this verbiage, there is a lack of London's desire to take concrete steps which would contribute to curbing the arms race, to lowering the level of military confrontation and to easing international tension.

The authors of the document emphasise that nuclear arms will remain an "integral part" of NATO's military strategy in the entire foreseeable future and that NATO also intends to go ahead with "upgrading conventional armed forces." The British Government has stated determination to go on "modernizing" its so-called "independent" nuclear deterrent force. The "white paper" expresses support for the U.S. obstructionist stand at the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva on nuclear and space arms, and simultaneously rejects the constructive Soviet peace initiatives on the plea that their realisation would ostensibly "keep Soviet superiority" in the military field. The document contains untenable allusions to the "difficulty of verification problems" to justify the USA's and Britain's refusal to follow the USSR's example and to take constructive steps toward banning all nuclear explosions and eliminating the stocks of chemical arms. The British Government has reaffirmed its intention to continue to participate in the implementation of Washington's space militarisation plans.

As is clear from the "white paper", the British Government continues to go on faithfully meeting its "commitment" within NATO framework. The "white paper" expresses support for the continued presence of the U.S. Armed Forces in British territory and for the deployment of new U.S. first-strike nuclear-missile weaponry in Western Europe. The Tory cabinet endeavours to justify its militarist course by alluding, as usual, to a mythical "Soviet threat" which has allegedly hung over the West. This hackneyed device which London has borrowed from Washington has long been used by the Tories to delude the public and to put facts upside down.

COMMENT ON NATO ACTIVITY IN MEDITERRANEAN, N. ATLANTIC

Turkish Maneuvers Begin

LD131235 Moscow TASS in English 1210 GMT 13 May 86

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Zharov]

[Text] Ankara May 13 TASS -- The Turkish part of large-scale NATO naval maneuvers codenamed "Distant Hammer '86" has opened, involving 400 U.S. Air Force pilots and technicians who have arrived in Turkey to take part in the war games.

According to the newspaper HURRIYET, U.S. and Turkish pilots, operating out of the military air fields at Sivrihisar and Eskisehir, will practive cooperation with ships and landing parties during the exercise.

The maneuvers, taking place in the Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea, involve surface ships, submarines and aircraft from the United States, Turkey, Britain, Italy, Holland and France.

At the U.S. air base in Incirlik in southern Turkey, in the meantime, the base's largest-ever exercises of U.S. aircraft are continuing.

Political commentators in Turkey say the large-scale military maneuvers of the United States and NATO in the east Mediterranean are another U.S. show of force.

Military Bases Built on Cyprus

LD131449 Moscow TASS in English 1250 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Nicosia May 13 TASS -- The construction of military facilities is being actively conducted in the north of Cyprus. ANEXARTITOS newspaper writes that specialists from NATO headquarters, making use of the strategic position of the island, have worked out plans to create a ramified network of military bases in that part of Cyprus. Five airfields, including Lefkoniko military airfield, which is capable of receiving all types of up-to-date combat aircraft, have already built in implementation of the plans.

The democratic organizations of Cyprus have repeatedly warned that the presence of foreign military bases on the island and the plans aimed at turning it into NATO's unsinkable aircraft carrier pose a threat not only to the existence of that state of Cyprus, but also to the security of the countries of the region.

Iceland Increases NATO Participation

PM131306 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 86 First Edition p 5

["Our Commentary" by Yuriy Kuznetsov: "Enforced Participation"]

[Text] The waters of the North Atlantic are famous for their unpredictability. Recently, however, Iceland -- which is surrounded by the ocean -- has been washed by waves of a differenct nature: waves of militarism.

One has to conclude, moreover, that the pressure exerted by NATO on the island, something that is no longer unusual, is now being supplemented by a stepping up of the Reykjavik government's "defense" aspirations. Official circles, especially spokesmen of the ruling Independence Party, not only give their blessing to the intensification of military activity on the island but are also prepared to cooperate with the Pentagon which, according to the U.S. newspaper INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, is "building up activeness in Iceland" within the framework of "its rediscovery of the North Atlantic." Furthermore, the Icelandic Government is planning to step up participation by its representatives in the work of NATO's leading organs in Brussels. In particular, the Icelandic Cabinet has decided to participate henceforth in the activity of the bloc's military committee. This course, taken by a country which has no armed forces of its own and traditionally declares its commitment to a policy of peace and broad international cooperation, appears rather strange.

For a long time now NATO and the Pentagon have been looking at Iceland as a convenient stronghold, a kind of "unsinkable aircraft carrier" in the northern part of the Atlantic Ocean. U.S. Secretary of the Navy J. Lehman declared recently that NATO, you see, "needs to dominate" the seas between Iceland and Norway.

As if to confirm the secretary's words, the United States has sharply stepped up its military activity in the region recently. The F-4 fighter-bombers at Keflavik, the Pentagon's largest base, have been replaced by the latest F-15 aircraft. Aircraft equipped with the AWACS electronic system have also arrived there. Iceland's territory houses two terminals for underwater hydrophones, part of the U.S. Navy's global acoustic reconnaissance system.

Such militarist activeness clearly goes beyond the framework of the island's "defense" needs and essentially serves the far-reaching strategic plans of Washington and of NATO as a whole, plans of a clearly aggressive nature. Under these circumstances it is hardly surprising that, to judge by opinion poll results, many Icelanders doubt whether their allies' efforts are aimed at the "defense" of Iceland and whether the steps being taken by its official circles really serve national interests. A REUTER correspondent reports from Reykjavik in this connection: "Critics (in Iceland) accuse the center-right government of complicity with the United States, which is implementing an increasingly aggressive strategy in the North Atlantic and the Norwegian Sea." The question of nuclear weapons is one of the most acute aspects of this criticism. Official circles declare that Iceland's government apparently will not allow the deployment of such weapons on the island without its consent. (Even though the base at Keflavik is totally controlled by the Americans.) These declarations, however, do not curb the Pentagon's appetites. U.S. spokesmen refuse to confirm that Washington intends to respect Reykjavik's stance on this issue. At the same time, facts which have become public knowledge testify that the United States can and is prepared to unceremoniously trample on both the stance in question and Iceland's sovereignty itself. Participation in Washington's adventurous policy of confrontation is in fact being forced upon this country.

It is easy to see that the militarization of the island and the attempt to turn it into a tool of U.S. "neoglobalists" generate growing perplexity and indignation among the public, and not just in Iceland at that.

IRAN-IRAQ WAR CAUSES 'RIFT' IN OPEC

NC131249 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1700 GMT 12 May 86

[Unattributed commentary: "How the Iran-Iraq War Weakens OPEC's Unity"]

[Text] Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i has pointed out the need to further coordinate the moves of OPEC members to arrive at a just oil price.

Speaking at a meeting with Libyan Oil Minister Fawzi al-Syakshuki [title as heard] who was in Tehran on an official visit, 'Ali Khamene' pointed out that the imperialist governments of the West have actually declared war on OPEC members and that the latter should thus find effective means to confront their enemies.

It should be said that OPEC's enemies act in concert. The consumer countries of the West that have stored large quantities of oil have canceled long-term contracts with OPEC members for the deliver of crude oil.

For many years Western companies supplied oil at (?low) prices to the world market. As a result, the amount of oil supplied by OPEC's Near East members to the world market in 1985 dropped about 50 percent in comparison with 1980. Oil prices fell disastrously from $34 a barrel in 1982 to $12 in April 1986. Because of the international oil companies' offensive, OPEC members are facing serious financial troubles. They have to refrain from many projects that would bring economic progress. Meanwhile, the Western governments are benefiting from the drop in oil prices. For example, the United States alone will make a $27 billion profit during the current year.

Obviously, concerted action by OPEC members is the most effective way to neutralize the machinations of the oil imperialists. However, there are still differences of view and, in some cases, conflicts among developing oil-producing countries. The Iran-Iraq war, which was fomented by the West's militaristic circles and the forces of domestic reaction, has led to a rift among oil-exporting countries and to the formation of conflicting political groups in the region. Two neighboring countries weakened by the war often deviate from OPEC's political and economic policy and try, first and foremost, to ensure their own interests. Representatives of Iran and Iraq clashed several times at OPEC conferences and these clashes prevented the adoption of decisions on oil production and, as a result, on the quantity of oil exports.

Halting the Iran-Iraq war and solving the conflict by peaceful means can save both nations from many disasters and deprivation, and lead to a mutually acceptable oil policy, which is very necessary in the difficult war against oil-devouring imperialism, because both Iran and Iraq have immense reserves of black gold. About 25 percent of the world's oil reserves are in these two countries and almost 30 percent of the oil exports from the Near East come from these two countries. By using these resources the two countries can to a large extent strengthen OPEC's struggle for just prices.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE OPENS IN MOSCOW

PM131820 Moscow TRUD in Russian 13 May 86 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Nature and Society"]

[Text] On 12 May the bureau of the committee on engineering aspects of environmental protection of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) started its work in Moscow. The Federation unites technical societies of more than 80 countries.

Participants in the session will discuss the progress of preparations for the Third World Congress on technical aspects of the protection of the biosphere which will be held in Prague in 1989 and exchange practival results and scientific ideas on the development and introduction of waste-free technologies.

PRC-U.S. COMPANY SIGN ACCORD ON LAUNCHING SATELLITES

LD131112 Moscow TASS in English 1049 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] New York May 13 TASS -- The Texas compnay "Terresat" has signed an agreement with the Ministry of the Space Industry of the People's Republic of China, providing for putting two U.S. communi cations satellites into an orbit by means of Chinese booster rockets. The first satellite is expected to be launched late next year. The UPI news agency reports in this connection.

Commenting on this report, the CBS television network stressed that "Terresat" had no guarantees as regards the ability of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to place the satellite into an orbit at accurately specified time. At present the United States can only observe how other countries do business in outer space, one of whose pioneers was America. In its turn, the NBC television network frankly stated that it were exactly setbacks in the U.S. space programme which forced one of the U.S. companies to ask China for assistance.

'CHALLENGER' ACCIDENT TERMED 'PREDETERMINED TRAGEDY'

PM131553 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 13 May 86 p 3

[TASS correspondent I. Ignatyev dispatch: "The Tragedy Was Predetermined"]

[Text] A picture of open disregard for people's lives emerges from materials published here of closed hearings held by the presidential commission investigating the causes of the loss of the space shuttle Challenger.

As THE WASHINGTON POST remarks, NASA and the members of the presidential commission have reached the conclusion that defects in the design of seals for the sections of the solid rocket boosters (SRB), combined with the cold weather caused the accident which destroyed Challenger and took the lives of the seven crew members." [quotation marks as published] At the same time the materials of the hearings confirm that the NASA leadership closed its eyes to known SRB problems in order to fulfill a shuttle flight timetable that was dictated primarily by the needs of the Pentagon. In one document NASA admits that instances of corrosion of the SRB's O-rings had been recorded in the course of seven shuttle flights.

This one fact alone, the members of the commission remarked, could have served as sufficient grounds for calling a temporary halt to the manned flights. But, ignoring any warnings, NASA's leaders continued to give the "all clear" for launches of the spacecraft. In other words, the tragedy that unfolded 28 January in the skies above Florida and resulted in people's deaths was predetermined. Moreover, without taking any action to eliminate the malfunctions, the space agency tried to conceal the truth about the defects. "This problem is considered closed," NASA experts stated categorically in connection with a leak of gas through the SRB's O-rings on 23 January this year. Five days later the Challenger disintegrated following a powerful explosion resulting from a malfunction in the right SRB.

Has the NASA leadership learned the lessons of this tragedy? Former NASA historian Alec Rowan remarked in an interview for CBS tv that he is above all else alarmed lest NASA again repeat its past mistakes. "It seems that the agency's position," he said, "consists of the following: Yes, we had a few small technical errors, we will correct them and everything will be normal."

Observers are also remarking on the following facts. According to data submitted by NASA to the U.S. Congress, since the mid-1970s there has been a 71 percent reduction in the number of personnel responsible for the quality and reliability of the equipment ordered by the agency. It has also become known that two engineers from Morton Thiokol, the manufacturers of the SRBs, who spoke out against the launching of Challenger because of the threat of an accident, have been reassigned. As CBS remarks, one of them, A. MacDonald, has been forbidden to show up at the NASA center in Alabama where the investigation into the causes of the explosion is under way.

REAGAN INFORMED SUMMIT LEADERS OF SALT II INTENTIONS

LD131548 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] TIME magazine reported on Sunday that President Reagan had tentatively decided to breach the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty by December. Here are some details.

According to the TIME story, Ronald Reagan told the Tokyo summit participants that more B-52 bombers would be converted to carry nuclear-tipped cruise missiles, putting the number over the treaty's limit of 1,320 by the end of the year. Reacting to strong protests from the other Western leaders, the American President promised to take their views into account before the final decision was made. The SALT II treaty was signed in 1979 in Vienna, Austria, but has never been ratified by the United States. The treaty contained a protocol concerning long-range cruise missiles of various (?basing modes). If SALT II were ratified by the United States these long-range cruise missiles would be banned, making it impossible for the Pentagon to deploy thousands of low-flying, accurate and hard to detect Tomahawks. They've been already deployed in Western Europe on naval vessels such as the battleships New Jersey and Missouri and with several squadrons of strategic B-52 bombers.

There have been several occasions when Washington was confronted with the dilemma of whether to observe the provisions of SALT II or breach them. All of them dealt with nuclear powered submarines. All the subs with the Poseidon missiles had to be scrapped to allow the commissioning of new subs of the Trident type. To be sure, the Reagan administration and the Pentagon have never had much respect for the SALT II treaty. Their consent to abide by it was dictated by financial considerations. It has turned out that the upkeep costs of old submarines are so high that it makes no sense to keep them in service. However, with long-range cruise missiles the situation appears to be different. They are much cheaper to build and much easier to deploy in substantial numbers than any other nuclear arms. And so to, to hell with SALT II. There is yet another reason why the Reagan administration is against restraint in the military field. Its star wars program is well under way. Billions of dollars have been spent on some of its components.

Two types of lasers are expected to be ready for testing in the early 1990's. An arms race in space will most certainly destroy the previous accords in arms control and unleash an uncontrollable race in all types of weapons. Being well aware of this, the White House has no qualms about putting its allies (?on notice). And this is exactly what President Reagan did in Tokyo when he informed the summit about his tentative decision to breach the SALT II treaty.

U.S. officials figure out that with time the initial anger in London, Rome and some other capitals will subside, and the violation of SALT II by the United States will be accepted as an accomplished fact. Should this happen, will all of us, the United States included, be in trouble? Yes. Do they care about this in Washington? No.

IZVESTIYA CITES ANA ON 'LA BELLE' BOMBING

PM121401 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS REPORT: "ANA Agency Commentary"]

[Text] Aden, 7 May -- Referring to a number of its own sources, the ANA NEWS AGENCY has put out a commentary in connection with the explosion at the "La Belle" discotheque in West Berlin on 5 April.

The Commentary points to the direct involvement of the U.S. CIA and the Israeli Mossad special service in the organization of the explosion. There is a wide range of evidence, in particular the fact that the Americans had made advance preparations for the explosion and had already landed three hospital aircraft at West Berlin airport on 4 April, which were used to take out the injured after the explosion.

A few minutes before the act, the commentary points out, a number of members of an underground drug syndicate, who operate, among U.S. soldiers, learned of the impending explosion and immediately left the discotheque. The police investigating the circumstances of the explosion established that the device had been made from U.S.--manufactured explosives and had been taken to the discotheque by a U.S. soldier -- a member of the group of drug dealers. Such groups, ANA points out, are set up and financied by the CIA and Israeli special services to carry out terrorist acts.

As for the dispatch that was allegedly intercepted by the Americans and which they ascribe to the Libyans, this is a total fabrication, because, according to the same data, the "coded message" was in fact transmitted by U.S. Sergeant (Khower), nicknamed "the colonel." For the transmission he used a special vehicle that had been taken to the GDR capital for that purpose.

The commentary points out that West German political circles do not rule out the possibility of new U.S. military provocations against Libya. U.S. and Western special services may organize new provoactive terrorist acts in Europe to "justify" further aggressive actions. Even now Washington is performing a kind of indoctrination of public opinion to prepare the ground for new acts against Libya, by promoting deliberate misinformation about the existence of some alleged secret agreement between the USSR and the United States on the "division of spheres of influence" and to the effect that Moscow was allegedly given advance notification of the impending U.S. armed aggression against Libya.

These claims by U.S. propaganda mouthpieces do not stand up to criticism and are lies from beginning to end, the agency pointed out. They have been officially refuted by the Soviet Union. This "information" is the work of the CIA and its purpose is to isolate Libya in the international arena and sow distrust of the Soviet Union.

NATO MANUEVERS POSSIBLE PRELUDE TO U.S. ATTACK ON SYRIA

OW130628 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0200 GMT 13 May 86

[From the "Novosti" newscast; Viktor Konnov commentary]

[Text] A new series of NATO manuevers began in the Mediterranean under the code name "Deterrent Force 86." Our commentary follows:

[Konnov] Hello, comrades: The military forces of the United States and its closest NATO allies are taking part in the manuevers.

The name of the manuevers means restraining force. Who does the United States intend to restrain in this part of the world, thousands of miles from U.S. shores?

Quite recently, similar manuevers near the shores of Libya ended with a barbaric bombing of Libyan towns and the deaths of innocent, peaceful inhabitants. The world was shocked by the sight of destroyed schools and hospitals and dead and wounded children. And now manuevers once again. But this time they are taking place against the background of accelerated tempo of propaganda threats against Syria. Now it is Syria, just like Libya, that is being accused of participating in so-called international terrorism. Now the United States and its closest allies, such as the United Kingdom, are presenting the Syrian Government with an ultimatum, deporting the nationals of this country, and under false pretenses churning out anti-Syrian hysteria. Surely the aggressive actions taken by the United States against Libya cannot be repeated against Syria. Is it possible that the blood of innocent women and children will flow again?

Actualizing the notorious concept of neoglobalism, the United States has assumed the right to rattle its saber near the shores of sovereign countries thousands of kilometers from its shores. Furthermore, the manuevers which they are holding in the Mediterranean Sea are a direct threat to the countries of this region.

Israeli Involvement Viewed

LD121507 Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 12 May 86

[Yuriy Solton commentary]

[Text] NATO countries are conducting military exercises in the Mediterranean. Taking part are naval ships of the United States, Britain, Italy, and Turkey. Our commentator Yuriy Solton makes these remarks.

What is significant, the maneuvers began just a few days after the Tokyo conference of leaders of seven industrially advanced capitalist countries. The statement on international terrorism the conference adopted under United States pressure has virtually committed the participants to complicity in the criminal American policy of neoglobalism, the policy aimed at subjugating other countries by force of arms. Right after the Tokyo meeting a number of discriminatory measures were initiated first against Libya and then Syria. This has now been followed by a move to activate the military mechanism of NATO, into which Israel is being drawn.

When the United States attacked Libya on two occasions each attack, if you remember, was preceded by military exercises off the Libyan coast. So it is not ruled out that the current exercises too portend a new major act of provocation and not only against Libya. Open threats have been issuing from Washington and some other NATO capitals against Syria as well. The Israeli defense minister, Rabin, has reportedly informed Washington of Israeli military preparations for armed action against Syria. Among other targets for attack Algeria and even Iran are named.

Washington does not conceal its intention to continue using the fight against terrorism as an excuse for using force against countries it does not like, and those who allow themselves to be drawn into this dangerous game equally share with Washington the responsibility for the aggravation of the international situation and the threat it poses to world peace.

U.S. CONTINUES TO PRESSURE NATO ON CW SITES

LD112031 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 11 May 86

[Vladimir Pasko commentary]

[Text] DPA reports on the Bundestag session scheduled for 15 May, which is to discuss the stationing of new U.S. chemical weapons on the country's territory. The same issue is to be debated by the British Parliament within the next few days. The debates will be held at the demand of the opposition parties on the threshold of the conference of NATO defense and foreign ministers, at which the Americans intend to obtain official backing for their latest militarist plan.

Our commentator Vladimir Pasko is at the microphone.

Washington is striving to get permission from its allies to station new toxic combat weapons on their territory. According to the press, it is, specifically, a matter of 40,000 bombs and 500,000 howitzer shells filled with nerve-paralyzing substances and set up on the binary principle.

American concerns have already received orders for these weapons from the Pentagon, but Congress has decreed that they should be stationed anywhere suitable but not on U.S. territory. This requirement is the reason for the pressure now being applied to its NATO partners by Washington. The partners have greeted the idea from across the ocean without enthusiasm. The British ECONOMIST noted a few days ago that the governments of the West European countries which regard chemical weapons with particular revulsion because of the consequences of their use during World War I, may be tempted to instruct their ministers to vote against the U.S. plan. The countries referred to in this regard include in particular Denmark, the Netherlands, and Italy. Nor does the FRG have any zeal for them. According to the newspapers, only Britain's Conservative government intends to approve the U.S. actions, and then only secretly -- in other words behind the backs of the people.

In view of the situation, the NATO leaders are attempting to convince the West Europeans that American binary shells and bombs will allegedly provide them with additional security. Against the background of the latest Soviet initiatives these claims look, to put it mildly, unconvincing.

May I remind you that in putting forward a program for the elimination of mass-strike weapons by the year 2000 the Soviet Union also proposed the elimination of all chemical weapons together with the industrial base for their manufacture. The United States has ignored these proposals in favor of its military business and to the detriment of Europe. Western Europe realizes the danger of the overseas plans but, as events show, is still not ready to give them a rebuff. It plainly does not have sufficient political will. Meanwhile, time is not waiting, and the Americans have already transformed Europe into a dangerous dump for their weapons.

RENMIN RIBAO COMMENTARY ON TOKYO SUMMIT CITED

PM140835 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "China"]

[Text] Beijing, 13 May -- The newspaper RENMIN RIBAO has published commentaries on the results of the Tokyo summit of the heads of the seven leading capitalist powers.

The political declaration adopted at the summit, the newspaper notes, allegedly "foresees a beautiful future for the developing countries." But in reality the difficulties which these countries encounter are worsening. The current improvement in the economic position of the developed states has been achieved at a time when the developing countries are experiencing more and more difficulties in economic life. The Tokyo "Big Seven" summit, the newspaper stresses, did not adopt realistic measures aimed at solving these important problems, but merely restricted itself to expressing "fine but empty words."

PRC FOREIGN MINISTER ON OPPOSITION TO ARMS RACE

LD131242 Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Helsinki May 13 TASS - TASS correspondent Vladimir Dodonov reports:

China opposes the arms race and its spread into outer space, stands for a total ban on and elimination of nuclear weapons, and also for carrying out a reduction in conventional armaments and troops, said Wu Xueqian, foreign minster of the People's Republic of China, now staying here on an official visit at the invitation of Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen.

Wu Xueqian stressed that China came out for resolving disputable issues by negotiations in the interests of scaling down international tensions.

MARX-ENGELS ANTHOLOGY PUBLISHED IN PRC

PM090906 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 May 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In Chinese"]

[Text] Beijing, 6 May -- The newspaper RENMIN RIBAO reported today that work on publishing an anthology of the works of K. Marx and F. Engels in 50 volumes in Chinese has ended in the PRC after 30 years.

Publication has been carried out on the basis of the second edition of the works of K. Marx and F. Engels in Russian prepared by the CPSU Central Committee Institute of Marxism-Leninism and taking into account their first published articles in German.

The newspaper writes that, addressing a meeting devoted to this event, Zhu Houze, chief of the CPC Central Committee Propaganda Section, emphasized that Marxism is a powerful spiritual weapon and that the publication of the works of K. Marx and F. Engels is of great significance for China.

DOBRYNIN SPEAKS ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM DRA

LD141224 Moscow TASS in English 1208 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 14 TASS -- The USSR is firmly and consistently supporting the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen the sovereignty of the country, to defend the revolutionary gains of its people and to broaden the social base of the progressive form of government, Anatoliy Dobrynin, a secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said, inter alia, in his address at the 14th session of the Council of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization which opened here today.

We wish success in the talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan through a personal representative of the United Nations secretary general, which have now entered a crucial stage, and stand for the achievement of a political settlement which would ensure a real end to armed or any other outside intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and dependably guarantee it non-resumption.

The Soviet Union would like already in the near future to return home the Soviet troops staying in Afghanistan at the request of its government, Anatoliy Dobrynin said. A schedule for their phased withdrawal has been agreed with the Afghan side, to be started as soon as such a political settlement has been achieved.

NAJIBULLAH MEETS WITH AFGHAN 'PATRIOTIC CLERGY'

PM131312 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 86 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "A Consistent Course"]

[Text] Kabul, 11 May -- BAKHTAR reports that Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, has had a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowments and the Supreme Council of Afghanistan's Ulema and Clergy.

Speaking at the meeting, he noted that the PDPA and the country's government count on the assistance and support of the patriotic clergy in resolving such tasks as the establishment of peace in the country and the termination of the bloodshed. Representatives of the clergy assured the Republic's leadership of their invariable support for the cause of the April Revolution.

On the same day the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee met with elders and representatives of the clergy and intelligentsia of the Hazara people. The leaders of the Hazara community expressed gratitude to the PDPA and the DRA Government for their concern for working people and the consistent and principled course in nationalities policy.

DRA LEADERS ATTEND WWII JUBILEE MEETING

PM131248 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 May 86 First Edition p 3

[Dispatch by unnamed own correspondent: "Meeting in Kabul"]

[Text] Kabul -- Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; B. Karmal, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council; S.A. Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Lieutenant General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA defense minister; and other Afghan leaders have been guests of servicemen belonging to the limited contingent of Soviet troops in the DRA. They took part in a meeting marking the 41st anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War.

Major General V. Dubynin delivered a report to the meeting. B. Karmal greeted those present. He stressed that during World War II Soviet servicemen fought courageously not only to free their own people but also to save the whole of mankind from the threat of fascist enslavement. The frontline heroes' feats are being continued by the present generation of Soviet servicemen.

F. Tabeyev, USSR ambassador to the DRA, took part in the meeting.

DRA PROTESTS IRANIAN 'ANTI-AFGHAN' CAMPAIGN

PM130919 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 May 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Resolute Protest"]

[Text] Kabul, 9 May -- As the BAKHTAR agency reports, a protest has been delivered to the Iranian charge d'affaires in Afghanistan in connection with the continuing anti-Afghan campaign by the official Iranian authorities.

The protest note draws attention to the "press conference" held in Tehran on 23 April by a representative of an Afghan counterrevolutionary grouping, a report on which was then published in the central Iranian newspapers. At this "press conference," the note says, flagrant attacks were made on the DRA Government and the significance of the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva was misrepresented.

The Iranian charge d'affaires in the DRA was also told that on 29 April a subunit of the corps of "guardians of the Islamic revolution" and a dushman gang made an attack on the Afghan village of Qazi in the region of Kuhestan. As a result 12 Afghan citizens died and 2 people were seriously wounded.

The DRA expresses a resolute protest to Iran in connection with this act of armed aggression and states that in the event of a repetition of such actions Afghanistan will be forced to adopt a series of concrete measures to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and that the responsibility for the possible consequences will rest entirely with the Iranian side.

GORBACHEV THANKS GDR PEOPLE FOR MESSAGES

LD140832 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0207 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Berlin, 14 May (ADN) -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has sent the following message to the editorial staff of the SED Central Committee paper NEUES DEUTSCHLAND. In connection with the participation by a CPSU delegation in the 11th SED Congress, I have received numerous letters and telegrams from various organizations and individual citizens of the GDR, both Communist and nonaffiliated, in which they express feelings of friendship with the CPSU and the Soviet people, readiness for a further strengthening and deepening of cooperation between our parties and states and their support for the Soviet Union's foreign policy initiatives. I would like to convey very warm thanks to all these collectives, friends and comrades through your paper. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Communists and all GDR working people good health, welfare and happiness, as well as successes in the struggle for peace and socialism.

ARISTOV RECEIVES GDR COUNTERPART IN MOSCOW

LD132051 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1450 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Moscow, 13 May (ADN) -- In Moscow today, GDR Foreign Trade Minister Dr Gerhard Beil met with Boris Aristov, USSR foreign trade minister, for a friendly talk. GDR Ambassador in the USSR Dr Egon Winkelmann also took part in the talk.

The ministers discussed questions related to the development of foreign trade relations between the two countries and stressed the great significance of these relations for the intensification of their economies, in line with the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 11th SED Congress. Tasks involved in the realization of the long-term trade agreement and the 1986 annual protocol were dealt with in detail. The ministers paid particular attention to reciprocal deliveries of mechanical engineering, electrical, electronics, and other products.

ARKHIPOV, SFRY'S PLANINC HOLD TALKS IN BELGRADE

LD132322 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 1900 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Milka Planinc, president of the Federal Executive Council, today received Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Soviet part of the intergovernmental Yugoslav-Soviet Committee for Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, who is heading the Soviet delegation to the 24th session of the committee.

In the friendly talks, in which both Dr Borislav Srebric, vice president of the Federal Executive Council, and Nikolay Rodionov, Soviet ambassador to the SFRY, also took part, emphasis was laid on the readiness of both sides to preserve, even under the present conditions of the fall in oil prices and in the value of Soviet exports, the high volume of overall Yugoslav-Soviet economic cooperation and to further its expansion on the basis of the introduction of new, modern, and long-term forms and greater direct cooperation between work organizations on both sides in the realization of such goals. Arkhipov conveyed to the president of the Federal Executive Council the sincere greetings of Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, which Milka Planinc reciprocated.

CPCZ, SED, SPD REPRESENTATIVES ON CW-FREE ZONE

LD132034 Moscow TASS in English 2006 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Prague May 13 TASS -- Representatives of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSC), the Socialist Unity party of Germany (SED) and Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) held a meeting here today. It was attended by Vasil Bilak, a member of the Presidium and secretary of the KSC Central Committee, Hermann Axen, a member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the SED Central Committee, and Egon Bahr, a member of the SPD Board and Presidium, deputy to the West German Bundestag. The sides exchanged information and views on the establishment of a zone free from chemical weapons in Europe.

Speaking at a news conference here, the representatives of the three parties informed newsmen about its results. The sides, Vasil Bilak said, are unanimous in the opinion that now it is more important than ever before to head off the further build-up of chemical arsenals, the production and deployment of binary shells in some Western European countries. The U.S. Administration is doing everything to make the U.S. Congress pass the decision, by October 1, 1986, on the allocation of funds for the production of binary weapons.

There exists a real threat that meetings of NATO ministers in May will pass such decisions which would open up the road toward the production of binary weapons and their storage in Western Europe. According to the available data, it is planned to deploy 40,000 air bombs and 500,000 shells for 155-mm howitzers. Under NATO's military doctrine chemical weapons are assigned the role of nearly first-strike weapons. People and governments of Western Europe countries should do everything to prevent that from happening.

Those who argue that binary weapons are less dangerous than nuclear arms are deliberately misleading the people, Vasil Bilak went on to say.

Considering all these factors, he said, the SED, the SPD and the KSC, and also the Governments of the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia set forth the initiative on establishing in Europe a zone free from chemical weapons. The heads of government of the G.D.R. and Czechoslovakia sent the proposal to Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany to open talks on setting up such a zone. The talks could result in the adoption of a joint agreement to which other European countries could accede. Such a step would not only promote enhanced European security, it would promote stronger universal peace. All Warsaw Treaty member-states unanimously support that initiative.

Our meeting was held at the time when the threat of accumulation of chemical weapons in Europe has grown dramatically. This is why we set forth the initiative on the establishment in Europe of a zone free from such weapons, Egon Bahr said. This could lead to the termination of all forms of buildup of the means of chemical warfare and to their subsequent elimination. Our proposal is equally acceptable to the East and the West, because it does not damage the security of either side. Our joint initiative is a component part of the general effort to achieve universal disarmament.

We urge the neighboring countries -- Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Poland and Hungary -- to join our initiative.

Aware of our responsibility before the people, we consider it to be our duty to keep the public informed about most important problems of the present day, Hermann Axen said. On May 22 NATO defense ministers will gather in Burssels to take a decision on the production and deployment of new types of weapons in Western Europe. On May 29-30 NATO foreign ministers will be discussing possibilities for the production of chemical mass annihilation weapons. This could become a fateful step in preparations for nuclear war, in the intensification of the arms race. NATO's decision on the production and deployment of new types of chemical weapons in Western Europe would mean a direct violation of the most important provisions of the joint Soviet-American statement made at the summit level in Geneva. This would also upset the strategic military balance in Europe and the world and would seriously complicate the Geneva talks between the U.S.S.R. and the United States on preventing the militarization of outer space. We urge the people, parliaments and political parties in Europe and the world over to thwart the attempts aimed at undermining the security of nations.

IZVESTIYA REPORTS ON ZIMYANIN ACTIVITIES IN POLAND

PM131126 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 May 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS reports under the general headline "Meetings on Polish Soil"]

[Text] Katowice, 9 May -- The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by M.V. Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commission, is continuing its tour of the country. It has taken part in a mass youth rally in the town of Tychy to mark the 41st anniversary of the victory over fascism. The rally was attended by students from schools and mining, vocational, and technical colleges.

The rally was addressed by M.V. Zimyanin and USSR Supreme Soviet Deputy N.V. Orlova, a weaver at the "Trekhgornaya Manufaktura" combine in Moscow. They conveyed congratulations on the holiday to those present and wished them successes.

Later the delegation visited the voivodship park of culture and rested in Chorzow.

On the evening of 9 May the delegation returned to Warsaw.

Warsaw, 10 May -- W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish State Council, has received the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by M.V. Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commission. The delegation head conveyed cordial greetings from M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet. W. Jaruzelski asked that cordial greetings be conveyed to M.S. Gorbachev and A.A. Gromyko.

The Polish leader expressed satisfaction at the fruitful development of contacts between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Polish Sejm. The visit by Soviet parliamentarians to Poland this year coincides with the celebration of the 41st anniversary of the victory over fascism, he said. Brotherhood-in-arms is at the basis of the relations of friendship and cooperation between Poland and the USSR.

He stressed the historic significance of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions, which enriched the storehouse of Marxist-Leninist thought and gave a powerful new fillip to the further development of all-around Soviet-Polish cooperation in all spheres. W. Jaruzelski described in detail the preparations launched in Poland for the 10th PZPR Congress and the increasing activeness of party members and the entire people in the discussion of the Draft PZPR Program and the Central Committee Theses for the Congress, which is linked with concrete problems of socioeconomic development.

On the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation's behalf, M.V. Zimyanin expressed sincere thanks for the cordiality and hospitality which have greeted the delegation throughout Poland. The meetings and conversations with Polish parliamentarians and working people have made a deep impression on us, he said.

The delegation leader described the Soviet people's progress in implementing the 27th CPSU Congress decisions. He stressed the great significance of the further development of Soviet-Polish cooperation in all shperes, including that of ties between parliamentarians, local organs of power, labor collectives, scientists, and cultural figures.

Katowice -- The sides unanimously noted the significance of further deepening socialist integration and the development of Soviet-Polish economic cooperation, special emphasis being placed on the acceleration of scientific and technical progress. Stress was placed on the exceptional importance of the constructive new initiatives of the USSR and the other socialist countries for preserving and strengthening peace, completely eliminating nuclear weapons, preventing the militarization of space, and reducing conventional arms. The further strengthening of the unity and cohesion of the socialist community countries and their close cooperation in the international arena are of great significance.

J. Czyrek, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, R. Malinowski, marshal of the Polish Sejm, and V.I. Brovikov, USSR ambassador to Poland, took part in the conversation, which was held in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

A conversation was held today between the delegation and M. Orzechowski, candidate member of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and Polish foreign minister.

On the same day, the delegation traveled to Plock, where it visited the Mazowiecki petrochemical and oil refining combine, the largest in Poland. There was a meeting with the party and economic leadership of the Plock Voivodship and with working people.

In the evening the delegation attended a ballet at the Wielki Theater in Warsaw.

REPORTAGE ON ACTIVITIES, MESSAGES MARKING VICTORY DAY

Warsaw Pact General Addresses Ceremony

PM091246 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 May 86 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "The GDR People's Festive Occasion"]

[Text] The friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the USSR and the GDR have proved their vitality and reliably serve the two countries' interests and the cause of socialism and peace. This was noted at a ceremony attended by representatives of Moscow's working people devoted to the 41st anniversary of the German people's liberation from fascism which was held on 6 May.

Army General A.I. Gribkov, first deputy commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces, delivered a speech in which he emphasized that over the years since the liberation from fascism, as a result of radical transformations, the GDR people under the leadership of the SED have traveled an enormous distance from postwar destruction to a modern dynamic economy, from the overthrow of fascism to the modern state of workers and peasants, from spiritual devastation to the creation of the most humane ideology and culture.

It was emphasized that the political, economic, cultural, and defense cooperation between the fraternal countries of the socialist community of which the GDR is a firm component is becoming increasingly closer and stronger.

E. Winkelmann, the GDR ambassador to the Soviet Union, said that the GDR working people hold sacred the memory of the Soviet servicemen who died in the battles for the freedom and radiant future of their country.

He noted that the decisions of the 11th SED Congress which ended recently open a new stage in building socialism in the GDR. The congress has equipped the Republic's Communists and working people with a clear program of action with a view to accelerating socioeconomic development on a modern scientific and technical basis. The results of the congress indicate that the cause of socialism on German soil is advancing confidently. The GDR people favor the expansion and strengthening of relations with the Soviet Union in various spheres of life and seek to enrich the friendship between the two peoples.

The ceremony was attended by B. Yazkuliyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; leaders of a number of ministries and departments, military leaders; and representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations.

On the same day E. Winkelmann gave a reception devoted to the anniversary. The reception was attended by S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense; V.P. Orlov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; A.K. Antonov; and other officials.

H. Kessler, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and GDR minister of national defense was present.

Greetings Message to GDR

PM081303 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 May 86 First Edition p 1

[Text] To Comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council

To Comrade Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers

Dear comrades!

On the 41st anniversary of the German people's liberation from fasism, the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, USSR Council of Ministers, and entire Soviet people send you, the SED Central Committee, the GDR State Council and Council of Ministers, and the fraternal GDR people ardent greetings and cordial congratulations.

The victory over German fascism will remain forever in the memory of people, of the present and future generations, as a triumph for the ideas of freedom and peace. It was a great example of the union of peoples and countries with different social systems who, in the face of a mortal peril, rose above all differences and acted against a common enemy and destroyed him. It was an event on a world-historical scale that exerted truly revolutionary influence on all international development and opened up before a rescued mankind new prospects for social progress.

The spring of 1945 introduced a fundamental breakthrough to the destiny of the German working people. Rid of the fetters of nazism and led by their militant vanguard -- the SED -- they created the first worker and peasant state on German oil. Relying on the solidarity support of the Soviet Union and the other fraternal countries, the GDR successfully repelled the intrigues of foreign and internal reaction and became an important factor of peace and socialism in central Europe.

The path traveled by the GDR and its achievements in the economy, social policy, culture, science, and other spheres of life are graphic testimony to the advantages of the socialist system and its inexhaustible potential. This was confirmed by the recent 11th SED Congress. Having displayed loyalty to Marxist-Leninist teaching and the principles of socialist internationalism, the GDR Communists' supreme forum put forward a broad program of creation whose implementation will enable the Republic to scale new heights in building a developed socialist society.

The 11th SED Congress, like the 27th CPSU Congress and the congresses of the other fraternal parties, has convincingly shown that the socialist countries continue to be the most consistent fighters for peace and international security. They are united in their resolve to do everything in their power to save mankind from the threat of war which looms over it, to halt the slide toward nuclear catastrophe, and to improve world development.

The CPSU and the Soviet state will invariably continue to strengthen the fraternal alliance with the SED and the GDR and to continue to develop comprehensive cooperation.

We wish you, dear comrades, and all GDR working people great successes in carrying out the tasks set by the 11th SED Congress and new victories for the same sake of peace and socialism.

May the indestructible friendship between the USSR and GDR peoples flower!

The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, USSR Council of Ministers

Sokolov Message to GDR's Kessler

PM081332 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 May 86 Second Edition p 1

[Text] To Army General Comrade H. Kessler, GDR minister of national defense

Esteemed Comrade Minister!

On behalf of the Soviet Armed Forces and on my own account I send you and all National People's Army [NVA] servicemen fraternal combat greetings and cordial congratulations on the 41st anniversary of the German people's liberation from Hitlerite fascism.

Celebrating this holiday with you, Soviet servicemen are expressing their firm resolve to tirelessly strengthen friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and the GDR and brotherhood in arms with NVA servicemen in the interests of the security of our countries and the entire socialist community.

I wish GDR NVA personnel great successes in implementing the decisions of the 11th SED Congress, further strengthening their motherland's combat capability, and comprehensively consolidating the combat community between the Warsaw Pact states for the sake of the triumph of the cause of peace and socialism.

With communist greetings,

Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Sokolov, USSR defense minister

Honecker Greetings Message

PM120843 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 May 86 First Edition p 1

[Text] To Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee

To Comrade Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

To Comrade Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

Dear comrades!

On the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory in the Great Patriotic War and the German people's liberation from fascism, we send to you, the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers, and all the Soviet people fraternal greetings and most cordial congratualtions from the SED Central Committee, the State Council, the Council of Ministers, and the people of the GDR.

In securing victory over the fascist aggressor, the Soviet people carried out a feat of liberation of worldwide historical significance which opened up for our people too the prospect of peace and social progress. The Soviet people's heroism and the tremendous sacrifices they made in the battle against the fascist barbarians will never be forgotten.

In the years since then, as a result of the joint struggle for peace and socialism, an indissoluble fraternal alliance has grown up between our parties and states. It was and is the reliable foundation fort the GDR's successful progress along the path of building the developed socialist society. Convincing new evidence of this was the participation in the work of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 11th SED Congress of delegations from our parties headed by the general secretaries of their Central Committees.

The successful fulfillment by the GDR working people of the crucial tasks set by the 11th SED Congress is at the same time a contribution to the strengthening and deepening of the fraternal alliance between the GDR and the USSR and between all the states and peoples of our socialist community.

The GDR sees it as its priority task to help ensure lasting peace and prevent world nuclear conflagration. Our people wholeheartedly welcome and support the USSR's firm and consistent policy of peace. This policy is convincingly expressed in the important initiatives aimed at completely ridding the world of nuclear weapons and in the new proposals for a significant reduction in conventional arms and armed forces in Europe.

We wish you, dear comrades, the glorious CPSU, and all the Soviet people great successes in implementing the remarkable decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, in the systematic, comprehensive improvement of socialism, and in ensuring peace.

Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council

Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers

Honecker, Stoph Attend Reception

LD091820 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1509 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] On the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War, a reception was held in the USSR Embassy in the GDR.

Present were Comrades Erich Honecker, Willi Stoph, and other party and state leaders of the Republic, fighters of the antifascist resistance movement, and representatives of the public.

Greetings Message to CSSR

PM091011 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 May 86 First Edition p 1

["Text" of greetings message from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers]

[Text] To Comrade Gustav Husak, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and president of the CSSR

To Czechoslovak Premier Comrade Lubomir Strougal

Dear comrades. On the occasion of your national day -- the 41st anniversary of the country's liberation from the fascist occupiers, the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers, and all the Soviet people are sending to you, and through you to the CPCZ Central Committee, the Government of the CSSR, and to all the fraternal Czechoslavak people cordial greetings and best wishes.

The victory over Hitlerite fascism led to a historical turn in the fate of the Czechoslovak people, to profound revolutionary changes that laid the foundation for the construction of a socialist society. It was socialism that gave Czechoslovakia real independence, reliably secured the inviolability of its borders, and created favorable conditions for a dynamic growth of the economy, science, culture, and living standard of the people.

The successes of your country achieved during the years spent building socialism are integrally linked with the activity of the CPCZ which celebrates its 65th anniversary this May Day. The resolution of the recent 17th CPCZ Congress and the extensive plans which are based on the strategy of socioeconomic acceleration approved by the congress open up new prospects for progress in socialist Czechoslovakia.

The CSSR, a firm part of the socialist community, consistently fights together with the other fraternal countries for eradicating the nuclear threat and for a basic change for the better in European and world matters. Communists and all Soviet peoples note with special satisfaction that the fraternal alliance between our communist parties and between our countries and nations based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism is growing ever stronger.

The Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, signed 16 years ago, reliably serves the vital interests of the Soviet Union and of Czechoslovakia. We are convinced that our comprehensive cooperation will continue to develop and be enriched by new progressive forms.

On this famous anniversary we wish you, dear comrades, all communists and fraternal people of the CSSR, on behalf of all Soviet people, happiness, health, and many successes in implementing the conclusions of the 17th CPCZ Congress, in the joint fight for the cause of socialism and peace.

The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers

PRAVDA Carries CSSR Reply

PM131254 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 May 86 First Edition p 1

[Text] To comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade A.A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

Dear comrades! On behalf of the CPCZ Central Committee, the Czechoslovak Government, and the entire Czechoslovak people we send sincere comradely greetings to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers, the fraternal Soviet people, and you personally on the anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over fascism and the liberation of our motherland by the Soviet Army.

Forty-one years have elapsed since the last salvos of the war died down in Europe, signaling the defeat of fascism and opening up a bright, peaceful future for the European peoples. During these glorious days our freedom and our national and state independence were also born.

The peoples of Europe and the whole world recall with profound respect that it was the Soviet Army and the Soviet Union that delivered mankind from the horrors of the brown plague. The heroism of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War was a powerful source of inspiration for the antifascist struggle of our peoples which culminated in the Slovak national uprising and the May uprising of the Czech people.

The liberation of Czechoslovakia laid the foundations for radical political and economic transformations and marked a turning point in our state's modern history. Firm and indestructible Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship was born and strengthened in the struggle against the common enemy.

Translating the revolutionary behests of May 1945 into reality, our country's working people, under the leadership of the CPCZ and backed by expanding all-around cooperation with the Soviet Union, have achieved outstanding successes during the years of socialist building. The 17th congress of our party expressed the firm resolve to contiue to follow this path. The strategy of the acceleration of the country's economic and social development that was adopted at the congress opens up new prospects for our society and raises new tasks.

We are well aware that this course can be implemented only by means of deepening cooperation, alliance, and friendship with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal countries of the socialist community.

The Soviet Communists' experience has always meant irreplaceable support and assistance for us. Our country's working people followed with great attention the proceedings of the 27th CPSU Congress, whose decisions served as a source of inspiration for the work of the 17th CPCZ Congress and the implementation of the most important tasks in the development of our society which it put forward.

In the present extremely complex international situation, which has been exacerbated as a result of the aggressive policy of world imperialism headed by the United States and its NATO allies, the historic behests of May 1945 ring out as a warning to mankind confronted with the threat of a nuclear catastrophe. Our party and our people rate highly the tremendous efforts made by the Soviet state in the struggle for peace. The initiatives of the 27th CPSU Congress, especially those on elaborating the fundamentals of a comprehensive system of international security, open up prospects for overcoming tensions in the international situation and also serve as a guideline for our foreign policy efforts, undertaken in close coordination with the fraternal states of the socialist community. We regard them as a reliable basis and guarantee of new victories in the struggle for peace, progress, and socialism.

Celebrating the anniversary of the glorious events which have had and continue to have a significant positive impact on the current course of history, we wish you, dear comrades, and the entire Soviet people further great successes in building the communist society and in the struggle for peace and the happiness of peoples.

Long live the fraternal friendship between the peoples of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union! Long live the common ideological spirit and unity of action of our communist parties! Gustav Husak, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and CSSR president; Lubomir Strougal, premier of the CSSR Government

CSSR Envoy Statement

LD092349 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 9 May 86

[Statement by Miroslav Savodil, CSSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in the USSR, to mark Czechoslovakia's liberation from the "fascist invaders," speaking in Czech and Slovak with superimposed Russian translation; from the "Vremya" newscast -- recorded]

[Text] Dear Soviet friends! Allow me on the day of our mutual holiday -- the 41st anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army -- to pass on to you the fraternal greetings of the Czechoslovak people and to congratulate you on Victory Day. I am expressing my sincere gratitude to you, my appreciation, and the feeling of our profound mutuality [as heard] with the words by a poet: faith for faith of socialism. We aim to put the strategy of accelerating the socioeconomic development of our country -- part and parcel of the socialist community -- into practice in the best possible way.

Words highly appraising comprehensive CSSR-USSR cooperation justly resounded from the rostrum of the 27th CPSU Congress. The new revolutionary stage, as both CPSU and CPCZ congresses noted, requires reorganized thinking but primarily concrete activities. It demands that we be resolute in establishing qualitatively new forms of cooperation, in creating joint enterprises, in implementing direct production links, and in establishing cooperation in science and technology. This is in the interests of our states, in the interests of raising the prestige of socialism in the world. This fully accords with the line of the 27th CPSU Congress, whose innovative program has drawn an outstanding response in our party and throughout the country. It has become a source of experience and confidence for us. The Soviet policy of peace and the concrete initiatives by Comrade Gorbachev are meeting with the full support of our people and of the whole of progressive mankind. In a few days, we will celebrate the 65th anniversary of the foundation of the CPCZ. We pride ourselves on the fact that the entire history of our party is associated with the Bolshevik party -- the CPSU. These [word indistinct] ideas we will develop further. Dear Soviet comrades, I wish you new successes in labor; I wish you all peace, happiness, and joy. Thank you.

CSSR ASSEMBLY APPROVES TREATY WITH SYRIA

LD132303 Moscow TASS in English 2147 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Prague May 14 TASS -- Deputies of the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia unanimously approved Tuesday the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Czechoslovakia and the Syrian Arab Republic submitted for the approval to the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia, the CTK News Agency reports.

Bohuslav Chnoupek, minister of foreign affairs of Czechoslovakia, who addressed the parliamentarians emphasized that the treaty opened broad prospects for a further development and deepening of cooperation between the two countries on various levels and in all the spheres. The letter and spirit of separate provisions of the treaty express the resolve of Czechoslovakia and Syria to cooperate in the solution of pressing problems of the international situation.

B. Chnoupek said that Czechoslovakia highly appreciated the stand of Syria on major international problems. It is identical or similar to that of the countries of the socialist community. Czechoslovakia also highly appreciates the fact that Syria is fearlessly countering the imperialist and Zionist plans in the Middle East and is persistently working for a comprehensive and just solution of the Middle East problem.

Syria has to continually counter not only the pressure exerted by the imperialist reactionary forces and the Zionist circles, but also open threats, B. Chnoupek said further. This follows from the statement made by the U.S. President which means that the U.S. is ready to attack not only Libya, but also Syria.

Colonel General Samuel Kodaj, deputy chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Anti-Fascist fighters who spoke in the debate said that Czechoslovakia emphatically denounced the policy of military threats and secret U.S. operations against Syria, Libya and other countries. The Czechoslovak people reject the policy of state terrorism, the policy from the position of strength, the policy of intimidation and the ignoring of the U.N. Charter. He emphasized that the new Czechoslovak-Syrian treaty was a firm foundation for a further development of relations between the two countries.

SHEVARDNADZE, KLIBI EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MIDEAST ISSUES

LD131739 Moscow TASS in English 1647 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS -- A conversation took place here today between Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, and Chedli Klibi, secretary-general of the League of Arab States, who is staying in the USSR on a working visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

The conversation covered the issues of work to improve the international situation. Chedli Klibi's attention was called to Soviet initiatives for ridding mankind of the nuclear threat and creating a comprehensive system of international security, set forth in Mikhail Gorbachev's statement of January 15, 1986, and the Political Report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 27th Congress of the CPSU.

The sides paid special attention to the situation in the Middle East and the Mediterranean, which has deteriorated as a result of a U.S. bandit-style attack on the Libyan Jamahiriyah and a campaign of threats against Syria.

Eduard Shevardnadze declared solidarity with Arab nations in the face of the U.S.-Israeli "positions-of-strength" policy. It was stressed that the piratic action against Libya and the anti-Syrian campaign of military pressure have made the situation in the Middle East very dangerous and fraught with the gravest consequences going beyond the bounds of that region.

Chedli Klibi expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for its solid support for Arab nations, including the Palestinian people, fighting for their national rights and against attempts by imperialists and Zionists to thrust their will on them.

The sides stressed the urgent need for achieving by collective efforts an early, just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1630 GMT on 13 May adds the following:

"Also today Chadi Klibi visited the Mausoleum of Vladimir Ilich Lenin and laid a wreath. A wreath was also laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Then the guest and entourage looked round the historical and architectural monuments of the Kremlin and Armory exhibition"]

Eduard Shevardnadze emphasized that convening an international conference on the Middle East with the equal participation in it of all sides concerned, including the PLO, is the only right way to such a settlement.

Chedli Klibi said that this approach, which is identical with the decisions taken at pan-Arab forums, is supported in the Arab world.

As opinions on the Iran-Iraq war were exchanged, it was pointed out that putting an early end to it and settling contentious issues by political means would meet the interests of both countries and the cause of strengthening international-security.

TASS CITES IZVESTIYA EDITOR ON SUPPORT FOR SYRIA, LIBYA

LD131335 Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Damascus May 13 TASS -- Our meeting in Damascus is taking place at a difficult and crucial time, when the international climate has been poisoned with mistrust and hostility, Ivan Laptev, a candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and editor-in-chief of the newspaper IZVESTIYA, said at a scientific and political conference on the dangerous ramifications of the U.S. act of aggression against Libya and U.S. threats to Syria for the situation in the Middle East, in the Mediterranean and in the world as a whole. He represents at the conference, attended by representatives of 54 progressive workers and communist parties from countries of Asia, Africa and Europe, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The arms race is going on and gaining momentum, threatening to spread into outer space, he continued. Those guilty of such a situation are well-known. They are imperialism and world reaction, which are trying hard to turn back the clock of history, to dominate the peoples and to push mankind to the brink of nuclear annihilation.

The central task of the Soviet Union's foreign policy course, the Soviet delegate continued, is struggle for the implementation of the idea of establishing a comprehensive international security system. Putting forward innovative plans and proposals, we do not indulge in wishful thinking or close our eyes to obstacles in the way of those plans and proposals. One of them is Washington's doctrine of "new globalism" with the help of which the American strategists are seeking to arrogate to themselves the right to meddle in the internal affairs of other countries and peoples and to dictate to them. The U.S. actions against Libya are graphic proof how international law is grossly violated to further the selfish interests and imperial ambitions of the U.S. militarist forces.

The barbarous bombings of peaceful Libyan cities cannot be covered by any "pretexts" or "justifications" made up by the White House, or by any talk about "international terrorism." The Soviet Union is opposed in principle to terrorism in any form. At the same time we object to attempts to label as "terrorists" fighters for national and social liberation.

The U.S. attack on Libya showed that from now on any state which is not to the liking of the USA, for one reason or another, can become a target for outright armed provocation or open aggression of the USA. The American Administration is also trying to involve its NATO allies in its own "new globalist" strategy and to influence public opinion by promoting patent misinformation on the Soviet stand during the U.S. attack on Libya so as to discredit the role played by the USSR in the Arab world.

The American imperialists' course of escalating tension and the war danger in the Mediterranean is being countered by the Soviet Union with a program of establishing a zone of peace and security in that region.

Security in the Mediterranean is inseparable from the settlement of the Middle East problem, Laptev said. However, that settlement is being blocked by the same forces, U.S. imperialism and its allies, primarily Israel, which continues to occupy Arab lands and to pursue a policy of state terrorism towards Arab countries.

The American-Israeli "strategic alliance" is becoming increasingly aggressive. It is directed today against Syria, the key element of the Arab's resistance to the hegemonistic neo-colonialist plans of Washington and Tel Aviv. The White House's open threats to the Syrian Arab Republic are intended to scare the Syrian people with a military strike. The imperialists and Zionists would like to make the Syrian leadership give up its principled course of frustrating the American-Israeli conspiracy and defending the lawful national rights of the Arab people, including the Palestinian Arabs, and for this purpose they are escalating military and political pressure and encouraging acts of terrorism perpetrated by the extremist gangs of "Moslem brothers" and other reactionary forces.

The Soviet Union has consistently supported and will continue to support the just struggle of the Syrian and other Arab peoples against American-Israeli expansion, Laptev said in conclusion.

SYRIA DECIDES TO EXPEL UK DIPLOMATS

PM131256 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Syria-Britain"]

[Text] Damascus, 12 May -- The Syrian Government has decided to expel from the country three British diplomats who must leave Syria within a week.

A SANA report states that this measure has been taken in response to the action of the British authorities, which expelled three Syrian diplomats from London for no reason. Commenting on the British Government's illegal act, Syria's TISHRIN points out that it is part and parcel of the mass campaign of threats unleashed by the United States and its allies against Syria on the clearly trumped-up pretext of "combating terrorism."

MOSCOW TV NOTES ISRAELI THREATS TO ATTACK SYRIA

LD132219 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1842 GMT 13 May 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov]

[Text] Tel Aviv and Washington have recently been making military threats against Syria. The slander campaign unleashed by the two strategic allies against Damascus is strikingly reminiscent of the one that preceded the U.S. air raid on Libya. The newspaper L'HUMANITE writes: During investigations into the explosion in a West Berlin discotheque, attempts were made to discover a certain Syrian trail. This happened after the Libyan trail was fully played up in Western propaganda. London is also involved in the anti-Libyan campaign. As you know, the Conservative government has expelled three employees of the Libyan Embassy from Great Britain, accusing them of involvement in an attempt to blow up an Israeli passenger aircraft in London.

The unsubstantiated accusations against Syria of complicity with terrorists do not stand up to criticism. Syrian leaders at the very highest level have repeatedly said that their country is against terrorist acts directed against innocent people. But in Damascus they see a precise division between terrorism and the struggle of the Arab peoples against the Israeli occupiers or their American sponsors.

In a conversation with me in Damascus, Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas said: Having carried out aggression against Libya, the United States has again revealed the essence of their imperialist policy. It is their cherished aim to dominate the world and to suppress the struggle of the peoples for their freedom and independence. Giving the order to bomb Libyan towns, the master of the White House asserted that this was allegedly a matter of suppressing sources of terrorism. In fact, Washington is using the instrument of state terrorism in its unsuccessful struggle against the Arab national liberation movement.

Neither Libya nor Syria will falter in the face of the aggressors, Mustafa Talas said. U.S.-Israeli threats to punish Syria for its firm anti-imperialist policy are as solid as the Near East crisis itself. I have often seen how, prior to the latest armed incursion into Syria by Israel, Tel Aviv has been beating the drums. Frequently in past decades the invader's troops have brought death and destruction to Syrian soil. To this day a considerable part of the Golan Heights -- that fertile and strategically important area -- is occupied by Israeli troops. Situated just 40 km from Damascus, the Golan Heights is included in the aggressive plans of the Israeli General Staff, in developing new options for a blitzkrieg against Syria. Electronic surveillance stations build by the Israelis on (Abu al-Nada) hill, near Al-Qunaytirah, are specific confirmation of this. They are capable of monitoring all movements on Syrian territory, right up to Damascus. The Golan Heights have repeatedly served as a bridgehead for Israeli aggression against Syria. [video shows views of a valley and a village said to be on the Golan Heights; military convoy passing along hill road; people in village; long distance shot of buildings and aerials on hill top; man in bunker looking down on valley through a telescope; armed Israeli patrol in jeep; view from front of armored vehicle as it passes along barbed wire fence on border].

In recent months Tel Aviv has deployed new military subunits there, including armored and missile units. They have taken up positions along the line that divides them from Syrian troops. Recently, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres visited this area. A correspondent for the U.S. television network NBC reported recently from the Golan Heights: tension is rising here; the illusory peace that reigns in the Golan Heights was almost destroyed this week, when reports began coming in that Israel is planning a preventive strike against Syria. U.S. television reported that the Israeli Army could even make use of the present dry season for a tank attack from the Golan Heights area. It is typical that these warlike rumors are not denied either in Tel Aviv or Washington. The anti-Syrian campaign was stepped up sharply immediately following the end of the Tokyo meeting of the leaders of the seven leading capitalist states, where President Reagan managed to foist upon the Western partners his imperial concept of the struggle against so-called international terrorism.

The next target after Libya could be Syria, wrote the U.S. newspapers. They also reported that during a recent visit to the United States, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin discussed various options for anti-Syrian military action in the Pentagon. True, most recently, after a meeting of the Israeli Cabinet, Shim'on Peres said Tel Aviv will do everything it can to avoid war with Syria. But at the same time, Israeli troop movements continue on the Golan Heights. It has happened like this often before, that following reassuring statements by Israeli leaders, their Army has made incursions into Arab lands without warning [video shows Peres making statement to journalists, then cuts to jeep patrolling barbed wire fence]. This is why Damascus is preserving restraint, and at the same time is vigilantly following the aggressive actions of its Israeli neighbor.

The United States and Israel, said Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in an interview with the West German weekly DER SPIEGEL, are looking for a pretext for unleashing aggression against our country, striving to frighten the Syrians. But they will not succeed in bringing us to our knees, the minister stressed.

TASS Reports on Situation

LD131416 Moscow TASS in English 1356 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Damascus May 13 TASS -- TASS correspondent Dmitriy Zelenin reports:

According to reports reaching here, the concentration of Israeli troops is going on in Golan Heights and in the captured Lebanese territories despite Tel Aviv's "assurances" that Israel is not planning to attack Syria soon.

No one has any doubt, the Syrian newspaper "TISHRIN" writes in this connection that the Zionist military prepare for an aggression against Syria upon receiving the "green light" to that from their patron across the ocean. The partners for the anti-Arab "strategic alliance" have again chosen and armed venture as a means to attain their criminal aims in the Middle East.

The newspaper "AL-THAWRAH", exposing far-fetched accusations being levelled at Syria as to its 'involvement in terrorism', points out that Israel is the base of international banditry in the Middle East. U.S. imperialism, by putting the newest weapons into the hands of the Tel Aviv aggressors, expects to impose "imperial will" upon Arab peoples, trampling upon their right to independent and free development. It is precisely with this end in view that the U.S. military are drumming up the situation in the Mediterranean and are urging the Zionist rulers of Israel on to a large-scale armed action against Syria and other Arab countries.

The situation in the Middle East, which has become complicated of late, has been considered at a meeting of the Syrian Government in Damascus.

New Aggression Prepared

LD131703 Moscow TASS in English 1733 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Kuwait May 13 TASS -- The USA and Israel are preparing to start a new Israeli aggression against the Arabs, the Kuwaiti newspaper "AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM" report

Washington and Tel Aviv supported by some West European states are spreading slanderous fabrications and distorting the facts, trying to create an impression that the Arab region is allegedly a source of international terrorism and therefore "preventive sanctions" are necessary, the newspaper said.

Facts indicate, the newspaper "AL-RY'Y AL-'AMM" notes, that Israel has completed preparations for an intervention against Syria, and possible against Lebanon and Palestinian refugees camps, and is at present trying to find a pretext for launching a strike.

SUDAN'S AL-MIRGHANI RECEIVES GORBACHEV MESSAGE ON ELECTION

JN131454 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Khartoum, 13 May (SUNA) -- Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has asserted that the existing relations of cooperation between the USSR and Sudan will be strengthened and bolstered in the interest of both peoples and to consolidate peace in the world. This came in a message from the Soviet leader to Ahmad al-Mirghani on his election as State Council chairman. The message was delivered by the USSR ambassador in Khartoum.

In a statement to SUNA, his excellency the USSR ambassador said that during the meeting with Al-Mirghani they discussed issues related to developing bilateral relations in all spheres. He affirmed that the viewpoints of both countries on combating terrorism, neocolonialism, and Zionism as well as on terminating nuclear arms for the sake of world peace were close.

It was announced during the transitional period that a Sudanese delegation would visit the USSR in July.

TASS REPORTS NEW SUDANESE LEADERSHIP

LD071854 Moscow TASS in English 0918 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] Khartoum May 7 TASS -- Muhammed al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of Al-Ummah, one of the major Sudanese parties, was elected prime minister of the Republic of Sudan by a session of the country's Constituent Assembly (parliament) Tuesday.

Ahmad al-Mirgani, leader of the Unionist Democratic Party, became chairman of the Supreme Council, while Muhammed Ibrahim Khalin was elected to chair the Constituent Assembly.

It was announced at the parliamentary session that the Provisional Military Council, which had exercised all power in the country, was dissolved.

Speaking at the meeting, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi declared an intention to improve relations with neighbouring countries, in particular Ethiopia, find an early and peaceful solution to the problem of the Sudanese south and do away with such vices as corruption.

Ahmad al-Mirgani, for his part, said the new authorities would concentrate on solving economic issues and the problem of the south of Sudan.

AL-QADHDHAFI SAYS U.S. WILL LOSE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS BATTLE

LD132243 Moscow TASS in English 2214 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Tripoli May 13 TASS -- Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has accused the United States and its allies of trying to bring the Libyan nation to its knees with the help of economic sanctions. Speaking in the city of Al-Bayda, El Jebel Al-Akhdar Province, he said that in that last battle the U.S. would fail to attain its goal.

We shall not give up our principles and shall uphold our honour, he said. The Libyan people have won a victory by offering resistance to American planes and aircraft carriers, including the U.S. unsinkable aircraft carrier, Britain. They will also win a victory in the economic war. However, what is needed for it is that each Libyan family make its contribution to the development of national economy.

M. al-Qadhdhafi said further that Jamahiriyah was striving for the establishment of a durable peace in the Mediterranean region and in Europe, and for the development of cooperation with European countries. However, this does not mean that we shall give up the struggle against imperialism and Zionism, he emphasized. Libya will further come out for the elimination of the foreign military presence in the Mediterranean, specifically, of the U.S. military presence.

As for the Soviet Union, it has come up already with a constructive initiative by agreeing to withdraw its fleet from the Mediterranean if the U.S. does the same, the Libyan leader pointed out.

OIL MINISTRY OFFICIAL, DELEGATION VISIT IRAQ

For Baghdad INA converage of the visit to Iraq for the 16th session fo joint economic, scientific, trade, and technical talks by the delegation headed by Deputy Minister of the Petroleum Ministry Stanislav Toplov, including talks with Iraqi Petroleum Ministry Under Secretary 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalbi, see the Iraq section of the 13 May Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT subsequent issues.

EXPERTS HELP CONSTRUCT, REPAIR PDRY DAMS, WELLS

LD122052 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 May 86

[Unattributed commentary: "Strengthening Cooperation Between the Soviet Union and Democratic Yemen"]

[Text] The regrettable events of last January in Democratic Yemen harmed economic activities; installations of vital importance to the republic, built with Soviet technical assistance, were damaged. Rapid work is now being done to repair these installations and build new ones.

In this context Moscow radio asked the well-known Soviet economist (Serafim Ivanov) to tell listeners about the progress of development work in Democratic Yemen carried out with the assistance of the Soviet Union. (Serafim Ivanov) replied that every group of Soviet experts working in this important area of cooperation has resumed its work in building dams and [words indistinct]. Soviet experts are helping Yemeni friends in organizing agricultural work in the fields of government farms in Aban, Lahaj, Tuban, Ahur and Hadramaut: For example, a short time ago the construction of [word indistinct] massive dam in Abin, the (Bahin Dam) was completed. It will allow the provision of enough water reserves to irrigate 15,000 hectares of fertile land. By Yemeni standards these are huge accomplishments in the efforts to solve the problem of self-sufficiency in food.

Serafim Ivanov) said that irrigation channels are being dug in the (Bahin Dam) region, and the places needed to construct irrigation installations are being marked. The construction of three other dams will begin at the earliest date in Abin, which will allow the distribution of [words indistinct]. (Serafim Ivanov) said that during April all the damaged dams in Aban, Lihaj and Ahur, which provide water -- in fact, life -- for large areas of land which will now produce abundant harvests of grain and vegetables, were repaired. Farmers will be helped to plant [word indistinct] by agricultural workers using modern Soviet equipment.

Soviet agricultural and irrigation engineers are taking part directly in agricultural production in Democratic Yemen. (Serafim Ivanov) said that the cooperation program for constructing irrigation projects in Hadramaut is being executed more intensively; a large area of irrigated cultivation is to be established there. Thousands of Soviets experts and Yemenis are working there now, constructing artesian wells with the most up-to-date equipment.

BRIEFS

USSR-PDRY PROTOCOL RATIFIED -- Aden, 12 May (TASS) -- The Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the PDRY has published a decree ratifying the Soviet-S. Yemeni agreement on cooperation in the legal and juridical spheres, which was signed in Moscow on 6 December 1985. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0750 GMT 12 May 86 LD]

ANGOLAN PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS CONCLUDES VISIT

Comparison of Gorbachev-Dos Santos Talks

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1500 GMT on 6 May broadcasts a report on a 6 May meeting in Moscow between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] - Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola. The radio report has been compared with the TASS English report published in the 7 May Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page J 1, revealing the following variation:

Penultimate paragraph, from last line was rendered by the radio as follows: its just struggle.

Present at the meeting were Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, and Van Dunem, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee Politburo and minister of external relations of the People's Republic of Angola.

The meeting proceeded (supplying additional material)

PRAVDA Reports 6 May Talks

PM081408 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 May 86 First Edition pp 1-2

[TASS report: "Soviet-Angolan Talks in the Kremlin"]

[Text] On 6 May Soviet-Angolan talks were held in the Kremlin.

Participating in the talks were:

On the Soviet side -- N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister; N.V. Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; B.I. Aristov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign trade minister; K.F. Katushev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; L.F. Ilichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR deputy foreign minister; R.A. Ulyanovskiy, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department; A.I. Kalinin, USSR ambassador to Angola; and other officials;

On the Angolan side -- J.E. dos Santos, chairman of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party (MPLA-PT) and Angolan president; A. van Dunem, member of the MPLA-PT Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the MPLA-PT Central Committee, and minister of external relations; M. Mambo Cafe, candidate member of the MPLA-PT Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the MPLA-PT Central Committee, and secretary of state for socioeconomic affairs; Evaristo Domingos, member of the MPLA-PT Central Committee and minister of agriculture; Jorge Flora, minister of construction; Carlos Antonio Fernandes, secretary of state for cooperation; Antonio dos Santos, deputy minister of foreign trade; Gâlvao Branco, deputy minister of industry; Jose Cesar Augusto Kilaunge, member of the MPLA-PT Central Committee and Angolan ambassador to the USSR; and other Angolan officials.

During the talks, which proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the leader of the People's Republic of Angola and the persons accompanying him were briefed on the active work that has been developed in the Soviet Union to implement the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and of measures to realize the program worked out by the congress to speed up the country's socioeconomic development.

J.E. dos Santos spoke about the work done in Angola to fulfill the directives of the Second MPLA-PT Congress, which reaffirmed the Angolan people's adherence to their socialist choice, and about party activity to strengthen the people's power and develop the economy and to defend the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

There was a detailed exchange of opinions on the basic problems of the international situation. The attention of the Angolan head of state was drawn to the international activity of the CPSU and the Soviet Government which operates in a world situation exacerbated by the adventureist, militarist policy of the U.S. Administration. It was stressed that the CPSU and the Soviet state have been and remain active supporters of a return to detente in world affairs and of maintaining constructive dialogue between East and West, and that they intend to firmly follow the Geneva course.

J.E. dos Santos confirmed Angola's total support for the Soviet program to create a nuclear-free world contained in the 15 January statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and for the concept put forward by the 27th congress of the bases for a comprehensive international security system. Dos Santos stressed that realization of the Soviet Union's peace-loving proposals would be a turning point in the struggle to eliminate the threat of nuclear war, curb the arms race, achieve disarmament, and strengthen general security.

The sides expressed deep concern at the appearance of crisis situations in various regions of the world, which are used by imperialist circles to escalate international tension and interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

The sides analyzed the explosive situation in southern Africa, which has taken shape as a result of the repressive domestic policy of the racist regime in the Republic of South Africa (RSA), and its aggressive actions against "Frontline" States, carried out with the open complicity of the United States and some of its NATO allies. The puppet rebel groups operating on Angola and Mozambique territory are obedient instruments in the implementation of this racist and imperialist policy.

The Soviet side once again stated its invariable solidarity with the selfless struggle of the Angolan people in defense of their revolutionary achievements and its loyalty to the obligations stemming from the USSR-Angolan Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation.

The participants in the talks spoke in favor of collective efforts to unblock the crisis situation in southern Africa by political means. Particular attention was devoted to the problem of decolonizing Namibia as soon as possible on the basis of UN decisions. The Soviet side expressed its support for the Angolan Government's position set out in a government statement on 8 March this year. The sides said that they are in favor of activating the role of the United Nations, and particularly the Security Council, in the process of a coming to a settlement on Namibia.

Questions of bilateral Soviet-Angolan relations were discussed in detail in a business-like, comradely atmosphere.

The sides stated with satisfaction that these relations are progressively developing and growing stronger on the firm basis of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and Angola of 8 October 1976 and on the principles of full equality and mutual respect. They stated that these principles are in the vital interests of the Soviet and Angolan peoples.

Particular attention was devoted to questions of further developing Soviet-Angolan economic, scientific and technical, and trade cooperation and to its basic long-term directions in the coming years. The Soviet side said that it will continue to give the Angolan people the necessary support and assistance in their efforts to fulfill the tasks of the country's socioeconomic development set by the Second MPLA-PT Congress.

Both sides noted the usefulness and fruitfulness of the talks. The belief was expressed that meetings between Soviet and Angolan leaders have great significance for strengthening friendship between the Soviet Union and Angola.

Comparison of Gorbachev Dinner Speech

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 8 May carries in its First Edition on page 2 a TASS report on the speech given by Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, on 6 May at a dinner in honor of Angolan President dos Santos. The PRAVDA report entitled, "In a Friendly Atmosphere," has been compared with the Moscow TASS in English version (as amended by the Moscow Domestic Service Russian version) published in the 7 May Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, pp J 2-4, revealing the following variations:

Paragraph five, line one in PRAVDA reads: in Moscow anew our friend, the party and (adding "our friend")

Paragraph six, lines one and two in PRAVDA read: special, I will add, extremely responsible and crucial (changing "say, very" to "add, extremely")

Same paragraph, penultimate line reads in PRAVDA: and foremost to create [sozdaniye] new tools of (changing "produce" to "create" ["sozdaniye"]

Page J 3, paragraph two, lines one and two read in PRAVDA: has always been and still is opposed in principle (adding "and still is")

Paragraph five, line three reads in PRAVDA: are putting an incredible burden on their (changing "unbearable" to "incredible")

Dos Santos Speech

PM091307 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 May 86 First Edition p 2

[TASS report on speech delivered by J.E. dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-PT and president of Angola, at 6 May Kremlin dinner in his honor under general headline: "In a Friendly Atmosphere"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee!

Dear comrades!

It is a great honor for the delegation from the People's Republic of Angola [PRA] and for me personally to be in the Soviet Union a few months after the historic 27th congress of your great party. We know that this important event was the result of in-depth thinking about the construction of the foundation of the communist society in your country and about the destiny of peace and socialism in the world today. This has had inestimable theoretical and practical importance for the life of the Soviet people and all revolutionaries and freedom fighters.

We also know that your attention is focused on the need to implement the decisions of the 27th party congress aimed at achieving greater exactingness in work and elaborating new methods and style of activity, a more rational approach toward the organization of labor, and the use of science and technology to increase production and raise labor productivity with less expenditure.

At the same time, the grave international problems being encountered by mankind and especially by the developing countries and exploited and oppressed peoples as a result of the imperialist powers' actions cannot fail to cause us disquiet inasmuch as the Soviet Union has been and remains the most reliable backup for the peoples struggling for their freedom and total independence.

It was with enormous interest that we welcomed the approval of your party's policy, considering it essential to strengthen the varied relations of friendship and co-operation with the African countries of socialist orientation. Our wish is to improve the mechanisms and paths which make our cooperation increasingly rationed and effective.

I think that in this connection our visit is an excellent opportunity for assessing at the highest level the development of our bilateral relations and at the same time touching on the most important questions of the present international situation.

I express the certainty that this visit will serve the cause of the consolidation of our traditional ties of friendship and solidarity, which were founded at the dawn of the struggle for our motherland's independence and have been constantly confirmed at the gravest stages in the Angolan people's life. Our people to this day oppose the aggressive war being waged against them by the racist Republic of South Africa with the support of the most reactionary circles of U.S. imperialism.

The Angolan people under the leadership of their vanguard party have won the right to independence and have freely chosen socialism as the path of development that most accords with their legitimate aspirations. Despite the difficulties we have, we believe that the PRA's decision to advance along a noncapitalist path is correct and is its sovereign right and cannot be questioned by any other state.

Openly expressing disrespect not only for international norms regulating relations between states but also for our people, the imperialist forces, pursuing the aim of overthrowing the legitimate government of the PRA, have elaborated and are pursuing a policy of destabilization against the Angolan people, of which the war is a harsh and inhumane manifestation. In an attempt to attain this goal, imperialism is using all the ways and means at its disposal -- from economic blackmail, political pressure, and slander campaigns to open terrorism, not even spurning to kill children, old men, and women.

Our country is thus living through a situation which can be considered dramatic, taking into account the large number of killed and crippled and those rendered homeless, and with a consideration for the tremendous material damage caused by the acts of subversion. Our people are experiencing the adverse impact of the critical situation that has now taken shape in southern Africa as a result of the actions of the racist Pretoria regime which, with U.S. connivance, is pursuing an aggressive policy against the region's sovereign states.

If the Republic of South Africa regime did not enjoy the support of the Reagan administration it would long ago have had to revise its conduct in both its domestic and in its foreign policies. In that case the international community, using the United Nations, would have been able to compel the Pretoria regime to observe the norms of mutual relations accepted in the international arena and to put an end to the bloody repressions its country and its aggression against the states of southern Africa. But the Reagan administration, pursuing a policy which contradicts the interests of the African countries, has sided with the racists, speaking of the so-called "defense of its vital interests."

The U.S. Administration has defined as its opponents not the system of apartheid but the progressive regimes interested in solving the basic problems of an economic and social nature in the interests of their peoples. That is why the PRA Government has met with indignation the numerous hostile actions of the U.S. Administration which, in seeking to aggravate the situation within Angola, has decided to repeal the "Clark amendment", resolves to increase the volume of material and financial aid to the puppet gangs, and seeks to bring pressure to bear on U.S. companies to break off economic ties with our country.

All these measures, which are aggravated by the aggressive war unleased by Pretoria's regular troops and the puppet gangs, are aimed at establishing in the PRA a government obedient to their interests. But despite this, we are absolutely convinced of the possibility of achieving a just and honest peace in southern Africa and it is to this end that our people are resolutely defending their gains and territorial integrity, at the same time putting forward constructive initiatives in the diplomatic arena.

The PRA is making all possible efforts to bring about speediest solution of the region's problems by peaceful means. This task can be resolved only with the granting of independence to Namibia in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 435 and the definitive elimination of the apartheid system.

Dear comrades!

We are witnessing the continuing deterioration of the international situation. The growth of imperialism's aggressiveness is beginning to acquire particularly dangerous forms because the use of force or the threat of force against the "Third World" countries has already become a pernicious practice, evidence of which was the recent U.S. aggression against Libya and the constant acts of provocation against Nicaragua.

This policy is having a serious effect, raising political tension in the world, and is an enormous obstacle to the implementation of efforts aimed at creating favorable conditions for world peace and mutual understanding among peoples.

The world today will only be able to survive if the norms governing mutual relations between states within the framework of the world community are unconditionally observed.

That is why we are convinced that the pooling of the efforts of all mankind of preventing war and thermonuclear catastrophes is an urgent necessity.

Proceeding from this premise, we support the constructive peace initiatives advanced by the Soviet Union, which do not always meet with due understanding, thereby delaying the possibility of initiating a new era -- the era of peace and security on our planet.

Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, I cannot conclude my speech without expressing to the CPSU and the Soviet Government the Angolan people's gratitude for the comprehensive aid being rendered and which we enjoy within the framework of the fine relations of friendship and solidarity between our peoples.

Nor can I fail to note here the ties existing between the CPSU and the MPLA-PT, which are the main foundation of our relations.

Indeed, in defending common ideals, we will be able to ensure the further development and consolidation of our relations for the benefit of progress, peace, and the development of our peoples.

I wish enormous happiness to the Soviet people and successes in implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress.

In conclusion, the Angolan leader wished health and happiness to Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, health to all thos present, and prosperity to the Soviet people.

Gromyko-Dos Santos Talks Reported

PM130852 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 May 86 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[TASS report: "Conversation Between USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman and Angolan President"]

[Text] "History has not given us the right to lose the struggle for peace and national independence for the peoples of the African states." Although A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, uttered these words near the end of the conversation with J.E. dos Santos, chairman of MPLA-PT and president of the People's Republic of Angola, they reflect the essence of all that was said at the 7 May meeting in the Kremlin. Participating in the conversation with the important visitor from Angola were the officials accompanying him on his friendly visit to the USSR.

In view of the fact that topical international matters and practical measures to develop friendship and cooperation between the CPSU and MPLA-PT and expand bilateral relations between the two countries had been examined the day before, at the meeting with CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev and during the Soviet-Angolan talks at which the Soviet delegation was headed by N. I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, on this occasion, at the request of the Angolan side, the discussion was primarily about problems of state development in Angola and the situation in the African Continent as a whole.

J.E. dos Santos gave an account of the setting up of organs of people's power in Angola on a national level and in the provinces.

According to the Angolan president, the utilization of the experience of the activity of organs of Soviet power in the USSR will have enormous significance for state development in that African country.

"We are well aware that Angola has squared its shoulders as an independent state and is following a course of socialist orientation," A.A. Gromyko said.

He assured the Angolan friends that the Soviet Union will always be on the side of those who advocate the people's national independence and stronger state sovereignty. Our country is ever ready to share its rich experience of soviet development.

The situation in Africa was analyzed in detail. A.A. Gromyko noted that the continent is a major arena of confrontation between the forces of progress and reaction, war and peace, racism and racial equality, apartheid and friendship of the peoples. As for U.S. actions with regard to Africa, in particular Angola, they are a manifestation of the Washington administration's general line of fueling international tension, intensifying confrontation, and kindling regional conflicts.

The USSR has given and will continue to give the African states resolute support in their struggle for freedom and independence. In this connection, mutual satisfaction was expressed at the increase and progress in Soviet-Angolan cooperation in the political, trade and economic, scientific and technical, cultural, and other spheres. Both sides will make an effort to further develop cooperation between the two countries' supreme organs of state power, the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Angolan National People's Assembly.

There was interest in the Angolan president's briefing on the development of the struggle in southern Africa against the South African apartheid regime. In particular, it is now known that on May Day more than 1 million workers in South Africa failed to show up for work: They were demanding that May Day be declared a holiday. One million strikers is an unprecedented figure for the state where apartheid rules. Both sides saw this as a historic success for the workers movement in southern Africa.

A.A. Gromyko wished the Angolan people successful progress along the path mapped out by the MPLA-PT, and new victories in the struggle against intrigues by international imperialism and local reaction.

Participating in the conversation on the Soviet side were L.N. Tolkunov and A.E. Voss, chairmen of USSR Supreme Soviet chambers; T. N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; L.F. Ilichev, USSR deputy foreign minister; V.G. Vysotin, chief of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium International Relations Department; Yu.A. Yukalov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Secord African Section, and USSR Ambassador to Angola A.I. Kalinin.

Dos Santos Departs for Tbilisi

LD071805 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1535 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-PT and president of the People's Republic of Angola, left Moscow today for a journey around the country. He is in our country on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government.

Before the departure, there was a farewell ceremony in the Georgiyevskiy Hall of the Great Kremlin Palace. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said farewell to Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Taking part in the ceremony were Comrade Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense; and Comrade Dobrynin, CPSU Central Committee secretary.

From the Kremlin, a motocade accompanied by a motorcycle escort of honor, set off for Vnukovo Airport. At the aircraft steps, Dos Santos was seen off by Comrade Gromyko, Shevardnadze, Sokolov, Dobrynin, and other officials. Also at the airport to see the guests off were representatives of the working people of Msocow. The state flags of the People's Republic of Angola and the Soviet Union were raised. An honor guard of the three branches of the Soviet Armed Forces -- the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy -- was formed on the tarmac. A band played the national anthems of the two countries. Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko and Jose Eduardo dos Santos reviewed the honor guard. The solemn farewell ceremony ended with a march-past by the guard.

Praises Soviet Friendship

LD081828 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1633 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Tbilisi, 8 May (TASS) -- Despite the continuing aggression of racist South Africa and National Union for the Total Independence of Angola puppet gangs within the country, the Angolan people are determined to defend the independence and sovereignty of the country. Angola would have not been able to wage this struggle alone, had it not enjoyed the support of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. This was stated today by Angolan leader Jose Eduardo dos Santos in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, a Soviet Transcaucasian Republic. He is in the USSR on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government.

At the Soviet-Angolan friendship meeting, which took place on the same day at the Rustavi Metal Works, the speakers stressed that the friendship and the mutually beneficial cooperation of the two countries are consolidating and expanding every year. The speakers noted the determination of Soviet people to continue to give all possible help to the friendly country in repulsing aggressive encroachments on its independence and territorial integrity.

The triumph of Great October was a landmark for all the world's oppressed peoples, said Jose Eduardo dos Santos at the meeting. By following the path blazed by the party of Lenin, many countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have rid themselves of the yoke of colonialism, many centuries old, and have shaken off the fetters of imperialism and emerged into the wide open spaces of social progress. The path of socialist orientation, along which the Angolan people are moving, gives rise to fury among the forces of imperialism. With the direct collusion of the U.S. Administration, the South African racists illegally occupy Namibia, from which they conduct unceasing agression against Angola. Jose Eduardo dos Santos pointed out that, faced with a direct threat to its sovereignty, his country is constantly aware of the comprehensive assistance and support of the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist community. Today, when imperialism is trying to revive its hegemonist policy, the USSR is advancing large-scale and constructive initiatives aimed at eliminating the threat of nuclear war and strengthening peace and universal security. This peace-loving Leninist foreign policy evokes a broad response and approval from Angolan working people and all progressive people throughout the world, the Angolan leader said.

Meets Georgian CP's Patiashivili

LD082246 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 8 May 86

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] In Tbilisi today Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-PT, and president of the People's Republic of Angola, had a conversation at the Central Committee of the Georgian Communits Party. Comrade Patiashvili spoke about Georgia's socioeconomic development and its participation in cooperation with Angola.

Later the same day, at the Rustava Metallurgical Works, there was a Soviet-Angolan friendship meetings.

Activities Reported

LD101745 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-PT and president of the People's Republic of Angola, continued his tour of Tbilisi today. He participated in the celebrations dedicated to Victory Day and laid wreaths at the Vladimir Ilich Lenin Monument and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Victory Park. Dos Santos also visited the Komsomol village at Neladze. The Angolan president was later given a dinner on behalf of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and the Georgian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Council of Ministers.

Moscow TV Interview

LD101632 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 10 May 86

[Statement by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos during an interview granted to Moscow television; Dos Santos in Portuguese fading into superimposed Russian translation; date and place not given, recorded -- from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] I would like to express my thanks for the warm reception given to us in the Soviet Union. We highly appraise the meetings and talks held with your country's leaders. The charitable [blagotvornyy] nature of these talks reflects the high level of relations currently existing between the CPSU and the MPLA-PT and between our peoples and governments.

We discussed issues relating to the expansion of bilateral cooperation and mapped out specific measures in this area. This visit will become yet another stage in reinforcing the friendship between the MPLA-PT and the CPSU, and between Angola and the Soviet Union.

During discussions of international issues, the situation in Africa was touched upon, above all in the south of the continent where the RSA [Republic of South Africa] racists, with the complicity of certain Western powers, are continuing their policy of aggression. We analyzed the situation in Namibia, which is illegally occupied by the RSA and whose territory is currently being used by Pretoria for subversion against the People's Republic of Angola. We believe that Namibia should be granted independence as soon as possible on the basis of the UN Security Council decisions.

During the talks we emphasized that only the eradication of apartheid can lead to the creation of peace and stability in the south of Africa and to the setting up of co-operation in that region.

Other international issues also were discussed, particularly the situations in the Near East and in Central America. Our points of view coincided on all the issues raised.

Departs for Home

LD100806 Moscow TASS in English 0851 GMT 10 May 86

[Text] Tbilisi May 10 TASS -- Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Workers' Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, left Tbilisi for home today.

He stayed in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Government.

The visitor was seen off at the airport by Dzumber Patiashvili first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia, Pavel Gilashvili, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Georgia, Bally Yazhuliev, vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and other officials.

Ovchinnikov Comments

LD102224 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 10 May 86

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by PRAVDA Political Observer Vsevolod Ovchinnikov]

[Text] The slogan of "Disarmament for development" is wholly in accord with the Soviet program to create comprehensive system of international security. Comrade Gorbachev expressed these thoughts while receiving Comrade dos Santos, leader of the People's Republic of Angola in the Kremlin the other day. It was remarked that his country has been subjected for 10 years to the aggression of racist South Africa supported by -- and recently with the direct participation of -- the United States. The transition of the U.S. Administration to direct military aid for the puppet National Union for the Total Independence of Angola bands is a new step in this criminal policy. The USSR is in solidarity with the struggle of the Angolan people in defending its sovereignty and its progressive social structure. During the visit by Comrade dos Santos, we once again affirmed the fact that we will unswervingly fulfill our obligations under the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation with the People's Republic of Angola. In the face of mutual desire to perfect the forms and methods of our cooperation, especially in such areas as the economy, trade, health, and the training of cadres, we are ready to erect bridges of friendship between our peoples, both in the figurative and in the most literal sense of these words.

PRAVDA Profiles Dos Santos

PM070816 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 May 86 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed profile: "Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Chairman of the MPLA-PT, President of the People's Republic of Angola"]

[Excerpts] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-PT and president of the People's Republic of Angola, is arriving in Moscow today for an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government.

J.E. dos Santos has made a great contribution to the development of Angolan-Soviet relations. He was in the USSR in 1979 for an official visit and in 1983 for a friendly working visit; he attended the 26th and 27th CPSU Congresses.

Under the leadership of J.E. dos Santos, a course toward building the foundations of socialist society and strengthening the leading role of the MPLA-PT in the life of Angolan society is being implemented in Angola. The progressive transformations in Angola have met with fierce opposition from the forces of domestic and external reaction that are trying to deflect the country from its chosen path.

In the international arena, the People's Republic of Angola has implemented a consistent anti-imperialist and anticolonial policy, favors the strengthening of peace and international security, advocates support for peoples' national liberation movements and the strengthening of African unity, and plays an active role in the Nonaligned Movement.

In the Soviet Union, J.E. dos Santos is known as a prominent African politician who has played a major role in consolidating Angola's prestige in the world and contributed to the establishment and development of its friendly relations with the USSR and other socialist community countries.

Soviet people greet J.E. dos Santos, and through him the friendly Angolan people, and express confidence that his visit will contribute to the further strengthening of relations and development of cooperation between the USSR and the People's Republic of Angola.

Further Reportage

For Luanda reportage on the signing of a CPSU-MPLA-PT plan by General Secretary Gorbachev and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos in Moscow on 7 May, and coverage of Dos Santos' speech at an official dinner in Tbilisi on 9 May, see the Southern Africa section of the 9 May and 12 May Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT.

TOLKUNOV, VOSS WELCOME ARGENTINE CONGRESS OFFICIAL

LD131109 Moscow TASS in English 1046 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Moscow, May 13 TASS -- "The Soviet Union Thinks highly of Argentina's effort for the prevention of nuclear war and for disarmament," Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union, one of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said as he jointly with Avgust Voss, chairman of the other chamber, the Soviet of Nationalities, welcomed in the Kremlin today Juan Carlos Puglies, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the National congress of Argentina. Juan Carlos Puglies had arrived in Moscow last night as a guest of the chairmen of the chambers of the Soviet parliament.

During the conversation that followed, Lev Tolkunov noted with satisfaction that the positions of the USSR and Argentina coincided on the key issues of our time and pointed out the effective progress of ties between the USSR and Argentina in the economy, science, technology and culture.

Juan Carlos Puglies expressed his profound thanks for the opportunity to visit the Soviet Union, to see Soviet reality and to exchange opinions on outstanding international problems and bilateral relations. "This visit, I am certain, will make a substantial contribution to the further expansion of contacts between the national congress of Argentina and the USSR Supreme Soviet in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and the cause of peace and cooperation," he said.

The visit of the chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the national congress of Argentina will end on Saturday.

Gromyko, Pugliese Meet

LD131805 Moscow TASS in English 1722 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS -- Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Andrey Gromyko received in the Kremlin today President of the Chamber of Deputies of the National Congress of the Argentine Republic Juan Carlos Pugliese and the officials who accompany him in his tour of the USSR.

In the course of the talk Andrey Gromyko has stressed that the Soviet Union advocated and advocates the Leninist policy of peace. We extend a hand of friendship to all the states -- both near and distant -- in whatever part of the world they are located. We call upon all the peoples to prevent a nuclear catastrophe.

It is no wonder therefore that it is exactly in Moscow, the capital of our state, that the call was made by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev that the utmost should be done in order to have nuclear weapons completely eliminated before the end of the current century. The peoples received the statement as an expression of their own aspirations.

All these thoughts were most vividly expressed at the 27th CPSU Congress.

We are deply convinced, said Andrey Gromyko, that the Latin American countries, just as other peaceable states, do not want a sliding into a nuclear precipice. We call upon the state leadership, the parliament of Argentina, to continue vigorous struggle, along with other countries, for elimination of nuclear weapons and termination of all its tests.

The resistance being put up by militaristic circles to these proposals could be broken only through the joint efforts of all peace forces.

The Soviet Union believes that no state has the right to impose to [as received] other countries the will and order from outside. It is the people themselves who determine the state system. Therefore, the Soviet people denounce with indignation imperialist circles' attempts to dictate to other countries -- be that Latin America or any other region of the world -- their canons of internal life. Any state which stands for truth and justice cannot but support Nicaragua's legitimate efforts to resolve its internal questions in accordance with the wish of its people.

Andrey Gromyko highly appreciated the efforts of Argentina, which along with other parties to the Delhi "Six" -- Greece, India, Mexico, Tanzania and Sweden -- is making its constructive contribution to the struggle against nuclear arms race and militarisation of outer space.

Juan Carlos Pugliese noted that the Soviet Union is in the vanguard of the struggle in defence of the principles of peace which Argentina is also upholding.

The sides expressed the intention to work for upgrading Soviet-Argentine relations and noted in this connection the importance of the visit to be paid to the USSR by President of Argentina Raul Alfonsin.

DETAILS OF NEW COOPERATION PROGRAM WITH VENEZUELA

PM131858 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 86 Morning Edition p 4

[Unnamed TASS correspondent report: "Cooperation Program"]

[Text] Caracas, 12 May -- A scientific and cultural cooperation program between the USSR and Venezuela for 1986-1988 has been signed here.

The document envisages tours by soloists and artistic collectives from the two countries, the holding of book fairs, and exchanges of musical recordings and composers' works. The Soviet Union has expressed its readiness to send Venezuelan teachers to work in higher education establishments, music schools, and art and dance colleges. It is planned to develop ties between writers organizations.

The USSR and Venezuela will participate in international film festivals organized in the two countries. Moreover, the USSR will hold a Venezuelan Film Week and a Soviet Film Week will be held in Venezuela. It is planned to develop bilateral cooperation in radio and TV broadcasting.

The Soviet Union will issue grants to Venezuelan students and postgraduates. It is planned to exchange experience in health care and social welfare. Courses, seminars, and conferences will be organized to that end. It is planned to hold joint activities and to exchange publications within the framework of cooperation between the two countries' scientific research institutes and higher education establishments.

Under the document, the study of Russian and Spanish will be expanded in Venezuela and the USSR, respectively.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DISCUSSES 5-YEAR PLAN

PM131033 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 86 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "At the USSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] A USSR Council of Ministers session was held on 12 May to examine the draft State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1986-1990.

It was noted at the session that the draft 5-year plan has been drawn up in accordance with the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, the directives of the Central Committee Political Report to the party congress, and the Basic Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1986-1990 and for the Period Through the Year 2000. With a view to the practical implementation of the party's general line of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development, the draft makes provision for targets and measures to carry out in the 12th 5-Year Plan a radical breakthrough in all avenues of economic activity, to transfer the national economy onto a footing of intensive development on the basis of scientific and technical progress, to ensure the steady boosting of the Soviet people's material and cultural living standard, and to strengthen the state's economic and defense might.

The USSR Council of Ministers approved the draft 5-year plan in the main, and instructed the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium, with the participation of the chairmen of the union republic Councils of Ministers and USSR ministers and department leaders, to examine the plan projections for the union republics and USSR ministries and departments, with a view to establishing plan indicators, as a rule, at the level of the upper limit of the targets envisaged in the Basic Guidelines, improving the balance between sections of the plan, and ensuring the more equal distribution of targets over the years of the 5-year plan period.

The attention of USSR ministries and departments and union republic Councils of Ministers was drawn to the need for an all-around upsurge in the technical standard of production, the accelerated assimilation of scientific and technical achievements, and the full utilization of the available production potential; including by means of raising the equipment shift index, stepping up the policy of thrift and the rational expenditure of fuel, energy, and raw and other materials, and the transition everywhere to the implementation of construction work strictly in line with normative schedules. The task is set of ensuring, from 1987, the 100-percent fulfillment by all associations, enterprises, and organizations of contract commitments for deliveries of output to consumers. It is necessary to considerably increase the efficiency of the work of the agro-industrial complex, expand the production and improve the quality and range of consumer goods, and increase the volume of paid services to the population. The importance was stressed of increasing the contribution of every union republic and every USSR ministry and department to ensuring the accelerated development of the social and cultural sphere.

Particular significance, it was noted at the session, is attached to stepping up work to improve management and the economic machinery and transfer all sections of the economy to the new methods of economic management, increasing the initiative and activeness of the labor collectives of associations, enterprises, and organizations, further strengthening discipline and organization, and radically improving cadre training and retraining in the light of present-day needs.

The decision adopted by the USSR Council of Ministers provides that the draft 5-year plan be submitted for examination by the USSR Supreme Soviet in May 1986.

Taking part in the USSR Council of Ministers session were G.A. Aliyev and V.I. Vorotnikov, members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and N.V. Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo.

The session was addressed by N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM POSSIBLE 'SHORTLY'

LD131919 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1750 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Moscow, May 13 (TANJUG) -- Judging by a TASS report on a USSR Supreme Soviet session this month, a plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union may also be expected shortly, since Central Committee sessions usually precede those of the Supreme Soviet. Up to now, they were held as a rule in June.

Observers in Moscow believe that the Central Committee may also discuss events connected with the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident, since the Political Bureau has already concerned itself with the question.

It is also felt that the Central Committee may consider the question of responsibility, in addition to analyzing a detailed, integral report on the causes and effects of the accident, as well as some other problems which have emerged immediately after it.

SOKOLOV, YELTSIN HONOR WAR DEAD ON VICTORY DAY

PM131314 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 May 86 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Forever in the People's Memory"]

[Text] The flow of people to the Tomb of the Unkown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall on 9 May was neverending. There stands our national shrine, our memorial... Columns of troops of the Moscow garrison stood still, their formation overshadowed by the combat banners of units and formations which won glory in the battles against the fascist invaders.

The following came to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to honor the radiant memory of Soviet servicemen who did not return from the war: Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister; Marshals of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev and V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense ministers; Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; USSR deputy defense ministers; and prominent military leaders.

A wreath was laid on the tomb to the strains of funereal music. The solemn strains of the state anthem rang out.

Subunits of the Moscow garrison processed in strict formation before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in tribute to the fallen. Wreaths from the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, the Moscow Gorispolkom, the Moscow CPSU Obkom, and the Moscow Oblispolkom were laid on the Tomb of the Unkown Soldier on Victory Day.

B.N. Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, secretaries and members of the bureau of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom and Obkom, war veterans, and represnetatives of working people took part in the ceremony of laying wreaths and flowers.

REPORT ON EARLY MAY SOWING PROGRESS

PM131246 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 86 Morning Edition p 1

[O. Pavlov "Agricultural Review": "The Page of Work Today"]

[Excerpts] According to USSR Central Statistical Administration figures, by 5 May 62.5 million hectares of spring crops had been sown in the country. This includes 33.8 million hectares of grain and pulse crops (excluding corn). Pulse crops have been sown on 4.8 million hectares. Cotton has been sown on 3.4 million hectares and sunflowers on 3. 2 million. Potatoes and vegetables have been planted on 972,000 and 776,000 hectares respectively.

May Day week, as we call it, was marked by a high rate of fieldwork. In the RSFSR alone, 14 million hectares of spring crops were sown in the seven days. Last year the pace was somewhat different -- 8.2 million hectares. As of 5 May, grain and pulse crops (exclusing corn) had been sown on 21.8 million hectares in our biggest republic, compared with 13.9 million on the same date last year.

All this has occurred, it must be said, during a period of changeable weather . At the beginning of the week, in the European territory, it was warm, quite hot even, perhaps 20-25 degrees. But then the termperature dropped to 8-13 degrees by day, with frost in places at night. It is now getting warmer again. There has been rain, so essential at the moment, in eastern parts of the Ukraine, in the Central Chernozem Zone, in Penza, Ulyanovsk, and Saratov Oblasts, in many parts of Krasnodar Kray, and in Bashkiria. This is very important of course, especially for the winter crops which have had a long drought, since March in some places. The moisture benefits the spring crops too, of course. Especially as sowing of sugar beet has finished in the Central Chernozem Zone and the North Caucasus, as has the sowing of sunflowers in Belgorod and Lipetsk Oblasts, North Ossetia, and Chechen-ingush ASSR. Two-thirds of the spring crops have been sown in Lithuania and one-half in Latvia.

The planting of potatoes has been completed, in most Ukrainian farms. In the Polesye and in western oblasts, which are the main producers of this crop, the tubers are being planted in prepared ridges with local application of mineral fertilizers. Commitment to increasing yields has strengthened the collective contract, which has now been espoused by nearly all specialized subunits.

The republic's farms, which produce 25 percent of the country's potatoes, have increased the scale of introduction of industrial techniques. Farmers have started to cut winter rape in Stavropol Kray. On the recommendation of specialists from the kray agro-industrial committee, kolkhozes and sovkhozes are cultivating it on 60,000 hectares of arable land. This is the area required to provide dairy and beef herds with all the requisite early protein and vitamin supplements toward the end of the winter period, when stocks of forage procured in the fall are nearly exhausted. Farms in Stavropol Kray are also cultivating oilseed rape. Apart from high-quality edible vegetable oil, each hectare provides 1-12 quintals of oilseed meal, which makes for forage grain savings. Rape cultivation also has the advantage of giving the farmer the chance to obtain two feed harvests per season from the same field. As the fields become available after the spring rape harvest, the Stavropol farmers immediately send the tractors out to prepare the soil for silage mixtures of corn with sunflower and Sudan grass.

The high work-rate in the fields last week by no means indicates that the farmers are hurrying for the sake of the work-rate alone; wanting to get the sowing over with as quickly as possible. No, in most areas the farmers are working at optimum rates, dictated by the specific spring sowing conditions and the degree to which the soil is mellowing.

For example, in North Kazakhstan and Altay Kray moisture retention has been promptly implemented and farmers are waiting for the weeds to come through. Where these have already appeared, the farmers are destroying them. The optimal time for sowing spring grain here is in mid-May.

Meanwhile, work is in full swing in the spring fields of the Russian nor-Chernozem zone. Around 40 percent of the spring crops have already been sown. Kolkhozes and sovhozes in Orel, Tula, Gorkiy, Kirov, and Vladimir Oblasts and the Mordovian and Chuvash ASSR's have sown more than 50 percent of the area.

Other republics are also paying greater attention to spring crops this year. This is understandable: In past years we have often failed to harvest as much flax as planned. Processing enterprises have also been operating indifferently in some places. Now, with the creation of the State Agro-Industrial Committee, it is possible to coordinate the interests of farmers and industry.

One unpleasant feature of the spring, especially for some southern grain areas is the rapid growth of weeds and upsurge in pest activity following the warmth and rain. This may affect the harvest. The correct procedure would seem to be that adopted in areas where they have not pinned all their hopes on chemical agents to combat weeds and pests, but are using technical and biological methods and are mobilizing people to combat the "green explosion." So the last days of April and first five days of May are past. During that week 21 million hectares of spring crops were sown in the country.

SHORTCOMINGS IN QUALITY OF OIL PIPES VIEWED

LD122145 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1430 GMT on 12 May in its "Vremya" newscast presents a video report by Mais Mamedov and Damir Belov on the low quality of pipes supplied to oil workers in Western Siberia. As the report begins, the video shows stacks of oil pipes lying in the snow, using footage that a caption identifies as having been shot in April 1986. The correspondent says that the pipes, over 10,000 of them manufactured in Sumgait during the past 3 years, are of the lowest quality. He goes on to report that hardly 2 km of pipeline are laid without some accident or problem. As the video shows oil workers hoisting pipes on a crane at a well site, the correspondent points out that the R300,000 well is idle. The drilling foreman tells the reporter that the pipes they receive are, "to put it bluntly, good for nothing."

The scene then changes to the Azerbaijan Tube Rolling Works where the reporter is told by the works' quality control department's deputy chief that he cannot guarantee the quality of the work's output, emphasizing that they also are supplied with such poor equipment that they cannot give a 100 percent guarantee on the pipes they produce. When the correspondent asks the official if a quality control department independent of the Works Administration could eliminate defective products, he replies that the quality controllers receive their bonus for plan fulfillment and, without elaborating why, explains that it could not be linked to an absence of complaints from customers.

The camera next shows a workshop in the Mrininskoye Drilling Operations Directorate of the Kuybyshevneft Association, which checks and repairs oil pipelines. The video shows the shop interior with workers checking and transporting mechanically large numbers of pipes. How is it, the correspondent asks, that a large works in Azerbaijan cannot carry out quality control, while it is left to small works like this, further down the line? After all, he says, not every drilling directorate is up to establishing its own repair and checking works such as the one shown here. The deputy chief of the Mirninskoye Drilling Operations Directorate, showing a piece of tubing broken off at the top, says he is surprised how much this sort of work is tolerated.

Vast resources are put into manufacturing and transporting these pipes over long distances, and it is all wasted. He adds that this kind of output justifies a demand for improvement in the quality of products. The chief of the rolled stock repair shop points to the nameplate on a piece of equipment produced by the Lenin Tube Rolling Works of Azerbaijan and says that, although it displays the "mark of quality," it is not a quality item. Holding the nameplate up to the camera, he says: "Our work is based on the principle: Drilling quality is pipeline quality. It is therefore an insult that all our efforts and all our work is directed at correcting mistakes and defects by the manufacturing works."

The scene then returns to the Lenin Tube Rolling Works in Azerbaijan where the correspondent interviews a rolling mill foreman on what he has to say now that he has learned what the Tyumen oil men think of its factory's product. The foreman expresses his distress that even his son asks why his work is so bad that everyone is talking about it. He says that they can only do their best, but that the equipment is not up to par. You can punish people but you cannot punish equipment. When the obsolete equipment is replaced, he concludes, the products will be excellent.

The recorded video report ends as one of the correspondents comments from the studio on the situation. As the pipelines go into more remote and unpopulated areas, he says each meter drilled costs more and more. If the Sumgait Tube Works is sending its customers defective products knowingly, then "something must be done urgently and immediately. The Azerbaijan Tube Works must be insistently and energetically helped above all and, by the same token, the oil workers must be helped to fulfill their serious and responsible plans."

BRIEFS

UZBEK OIL EXTRACTION -- Thirteen oil fields in (?Kary-Chul) in South Uzbekistan have begun production ahead of time. As a result of the fast pace of the exploitation of the underground resources of combustibles, over 2,000 tons of oil have been extracted in excess of the plan since the beginning of the current year. The pace in extracting oil has been achieved through the introduction of new technical equipment and through the management of the fields by [word indistinct]. According to estimates by experts, 250,000 tons worth of economic profit is expected from the oil fields by the end of the current year as a result of a number of renovations put into effect. [Text] [Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 11 May 86 GF]

ROBOT COMMUNICATIONS -- Sochi is the first and thus far the only town in the country where a robot accepts orders for intercity telephone calls. The USSR Ministry of Communications is carrying out an experiment here, testing new electronic equipment. It has been developed in the Moscow branch of the Central Scientific-Technical Institute of Communications. The "dialog" complex -- such is the name given to the new equipment -- will enable to more than double the number of received orders and thus improve considerably the quality of telephone service in Sochi. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 8 May 86 LD]

OIL, GAS DEPOSITS -- One hundred and forty four oil and gas deposits have been discovered in the European member-countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and in Yugoslavia. The figures have been published by the Council Secretariat in Moscow. [Text] [Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 12 May 86 LD]

KIZIM, SOLOYEV MAINTAIN SPACE FLIGHT PROGRAM

LD132047 Moscow TASS in English 1103 GMT May 86

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS -- Leonid Kizim and Vladimir Solovyev have been working in orbit for two months now. Over this time they have successfully tested the units and systems of the new orbital station "Mir" (peace in Russian) and installed extra equipment there, which has been brought up by two space freighters. In keeping with their flight program the crew have flown over to the "Salyut-7" station and now work on its board, completing the job of reactivating the station.

Yesterday they checked the orientation system in the manned flight mode and replaced an instrument in the engines' control loop. Today the cosmonauts are to check and do preventive maintenace work on individual elements of the electrial supply lines and perform physical exercises on a veloergometer and a treadmill.

According to reports from orbit and telemetry readings, the flight of a manned complex consisting of the station "Salyut-7", the spaceship "Soyuz T-15" and the satellite "Cosmos-1686" is proceeding normally. Cosmonauts Kizim and Solovyev are in good health and felling well.

EARTHQUAKES REPORTED IN FOUR SOVIET REPUBLIC

Azerbaijan

LD141229 Moscow TASS in English 1220 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Baku May 14 TASS -- An earthquake shook Azerbaijan (a Soviet Transcaucasian Republic) today at 10 hours 25 minutes Moscow time. The underground tremor in the epicentre located 10 kilometres south-east of the city of Mingechaur measured 5.0 to 5.5. The estimated magnitude of the tremor in the cities of Mingechaur and Yevlakh was 5.0 and in Barda and Agdash - 4.0. The earthquake caused slight damage to individual old buildings. No casualties and destructions are reported.

Tajikistan

LD140952 Moscow TASS in English 0900 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Dushanbe May 14 TASS -- An earthquake was registered on the territory of Tajikistan, 130 kilometers southeast of Dushanbe and 215 kilometers from Kulyab, a regional centre, at 4 hours 32 minutes Moscow time [0032 GMT, 14 May]. The force of the earth tremor in the epicentre measured four to five points on the 12-point scale. Residents of Kulyab felt the four-point tremor. There were no casualties or damage.

Georgia, Armenia

LD131807 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] At 1244 Moscow time [0844 GMT] today, there was an earthquake in Georgia. Its epicenter was close to the town of Akhalkalaki, where it registered a force of 7 points; in Bakuriani, 6-7 points; and in Tbilisi, 4-5 points [scales not given]. Close to the epicenter insignificant damage to a number of building and older-style structures was noted. Its shockwaves also traveled through Armenia: In Stepanavan and Leninakan the earthquake was felt with a force of 5 points.